

# **Glossary of HIV/AIDS-Related Terms**

5th Edition

**October 2005**



**Offering Information on HIV/AIDS  
Treatment, Prevention, and Research**

**Help Line: 800-448-0440**

***AIDSinfo.nih.gov***





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A Service of the U.S. Department  
of Health and Human Services

## **Offering Information on HIV/AIDS Treatment, Prevention, and Research**

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# Introduction

AIDSinfo is pleased to present the fifth edition of our *Glossary of HIV/AIDS-Related Terms*. This comprehensive glossary is one of AIDSinfo's most popular publications.

The *Glossary* is a well-known resource designed to help health care providers, caseworkers, community-based organizations, and people living with HIV/AIDS and their families and friends understand the complex web of HIV/AIDS terminology.

What's new in this edition:

- New and updated terms and definitions.
- An easy-to-use abbreviation key.
- Expanded "Additional Resources" section.

The fifth edition's new and improved "Additional Resources" section provides details about some of our favorite resources for HIV/AIDS information. For each resource listed, there is a helpful description of services along with contact information,

## Introduction

Internet addresses, hours of operation, and specifics such as bilingual capability.

*AIDSinfo*, a service of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is your trusted source for information about HIV/AIDS treatment, clinical trials, and medical practice guidelines for consumers and health care providers. *AIDSinfo* is collectively sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Speak with an *AIDSinfo* health information specialist at our toll free number (800-448-0440) or online (<https://webcontact.aspensys.com/AidsInfo/intro.jsp>). The specialist will provide free, confidential, and personalized answers to your questions about HIV treatment and clinical trials. *AIDSinfo* health information specialists can also assist you with navigating the *AIDSinfo* Web site and other Web sites sponsored by the National Library of Medicine, such as ClinicalTrials.gov, PubMed, and MedlinePlus.

To take advantage of *AIDSinfo* services—

Contact our **toll-free number** at **800-448-0440** Monday–Friday, noon–5 p.m. e.s.t. Spanish-speaking staff are available.

**TTY/TDD** 888-480-3739

**E-mail**      [ContactUs@aidsinfo.nih.gov](mailto:ContactUs@aidsinfo.nih.gov)

**Web Site**    [www.aidsinfo.nih.gov](http://www.aidsinfo.nih.gov)

**Live Help**   <https://webcontact.aspensys.com/AidsInfo/intro.jsp>

*AIDSinfo . . . your trusted source for information about  
HIV/AIDS treatment, clinical trials, and medical practice  
guidelines for consumers and health care providers.*

**AACTG**

See Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Group

**Acquired Immunity**

The body's ability to fight or prevent a specific infection. This ability can be acquired either actively (by having and recovering from an infection or by being vaccinated against an infection) or passively (by receiving antibodies from an outside source, such as from breast milk or donated blood components).

See Also:     Active Immunity  
                  Passive Immunity

**Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)**

A disease of the body's immune system caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). AIDS is characterized by the death of CD4 cells (an important part of the body's immune system), which leaves the body vulnerable to life-threatening conditions such as infections and cancers.

See Also:     AIDS-Defining Condition  
                  AIDS-Related Cancer  
                  Human Immunodeficiency Virus  
                  Opportunistic Infections

**Active Immunity**

Protection from a specific infection that develops after having and recovering from the infection or being vaccinated against the infection.

See Also:     Acquired Immunity

**Acute HIV Infection**

Also known as primary HIV infection or acute retroviral syndrome (ARS). The period of rapid HIV replication that occurs 2 to 4 weeks after infection by HIV. Acute HIV infection is characterized by a drop in CD4 cell counts and an increase in HIV levels in the blood. Some, but not all, individuals experience flu-like symptoms during this period of infection. These symptoms can include fever, inflamed lymph nodes, sore throat, and rash. These symptoms may last from a few days to 4 weeks and then go away.

**Acute HIV Infection and Early Diseases Research Program (AIEDRP)**

A program funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to conduct research with people who have been recently infected with HIV. This research is aimed at understanding how HIV infects humans and how the disease progresses to AIDS. Scientists believe that events that occur during acute and early infection may determine the ultimate course of the disease.

**Acute Retroviral Syndrome (ARS)**

See Acute HIV Infection

**ADAPs**

See AIDS Drug Assistance Programs

**ADC**

See AIDS Dementia Complex

**Adherence**

Closely following (adhering to) a prescribed treatment regimen. This includes taking the correct dose of a drug at the correct time, exactly as prescribed. Failure to adhere to an anti-HIV treatment regimen can lead to virological failure and drug resistance.

See Also:      Drug Resistance  
                    Virologic Failure

**Adjuvant**

Substance added to a drug that enhances or modifies the original drug. Also refers to a substance added to a vaccine to improve the body's immune response to that vaccine.

**ADR**

See Adverse Drug Reaction



**Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Group (AACTG)**

A large clinical trial organization that conducts clinical research to test treatment and prevention strategies for adult HIV infection and AIDS. The AACTG is funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

See Also: Clinical Trial

**Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR)**

Any drug effect that is unwanted, unpleasant, or potentially harmful. These effects may be mild and may disappear when the drug is stopped or subside as the body adjusts to the drug. Other ADRs, such as skin rashes, anemia, or organ damage, are more serious.

**AETCs**

See AIDS Education and Training Centers

**Agammaglobulinemia**

Absence or low levels of antibodies in the blood. This condition leaves a person vulnerable to infections.

See Also: Antibody

**Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)**

An agency of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that sponsors and conducts research on health care results, quality, cost, use, and access.

**AHRQ**

See Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

**AIDS**

See Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

**AIDS Case Definition**

See AIDS-Defining Condition

**AIDS-Defining Condition**

Any of a list of illnesses that, when occurring in an HIV-infected person, leads to a diagnosis of AIDS, the most serious stage of HIV infection. AIDS is also diagnosed if an HIV-infected person has a CD4 count below 200 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>, whether or not that person has an AIDS-defining condition. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a list of AIDS-defining conditions in 1993. The 26 conditions include candidiasis, cytomegalovirus disease, Kaposi's sarcoma, mycobacterium avium complex, pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, recurrent pneumonia, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, pulmonary tuberculosis, invasive cervical cancer, and wasting syndrome.

See Also:      Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

**AIDS Dementia Complex (ADC)**

Also called HIV-associated dementia. A progressive mental disorder with different nervous system and mental symptoms. Mental symptoms may be memory loss, speech problems, inability to concentrate, or poor judgment. There may be behavior changes, such as not being able to perform daily tasks. There may also be mood changes, such as depression. Motor difficulties may include loss of control of the legs or moving slowly or stiffly. ADC is considered an AIDS-defining condition in people with HIV.

**AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs)**

Programs authorized under Title II of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act that operate in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These programs provide HIV-related prescription drugs to underinsured and uninsured individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

**AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETCs)**

A network of 15 regional centers that conduct targeted, multi-disciplinary HIV education and training programs for health care providers. The mission of these centers is to increase the number of health care providers who are educated and motivated to counsel, diagnose, treat, and manage individuals with HIV infection and to assist in the prevention of high-risk behaviors that may lead to infection. AETCs are administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

**AIDSinfo**

A Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) project that offers the latest federally approved information on HIV/AIDS clinical research, treatment and prevention, and medical practice guidelines for people living with HIV/AIDS, their families and friends, health care providers, scientists, and researchers. The service includes a Web site with “Live Help,” a toll-free hotline (1-800-448-0440), responses to e-mail inquiries, and a variety of publications. <http://www.aidsinfo.nih.gov>

**AIDS-Related Cancer**

Several cancers are more common or more aggressive in people with HIV. These cancers include certain types of immune system cancers (lymphomas), Kaposi’s sarcoma, cancers that affect the anus and the cervix, and others. Having HIV appears to play a role in the development and progression of these cancers, although people without HIV can also have them.

**AIDS-Related Complex (ARC)**

A group of complications that commonly occur in the early stage of HIV infection. These may include recurrent fever, unexplained weight loss, swollen lymph nodes, diarrhea, herpes, or fungus infection of the mouth and throat.

**AIDS Service Organization (ASO)**

A health association, support agency, or other service actively involved in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS.

**AIEDRP**

See Acute HIV Infection and Early Diseases Research Program

**Alanine Transaminase (ALT)**

See Liver Function Tests

**Alkaline Phosphatase**

An enzyme normally present in certain cells within the liver, bone, kidney, intestine, and placenta. When cells are destroyed in those tissues, the enzyme leaks into the blood, and levels rise in proportion to the severity of the condition. Measurement of this enzyme is one way to evaluate the health of the liver.

**ALT**

See Alanine Transaminase

**Amino Acids**

The building blocks the body uses to make proteins.

See Also: Proteins

**Anaphylaxis**

Also called anaphylactic shock. A rare but life-threatening whole-body allergic reaction. Symptoms may appear quickly and include difficulty breathing, swelling of the throat or other parts of the body, rapid drop in blood pressure, dizziness, or unconsciousness. Anaphylaxis can be triggered by foods, drugs, insect stings, or exertion.

**Anemia**

A lower than normal number of red blood cells. Symptoms may include fatigue, chest pain, or shortness of breath.

**Anorexia**

Lack or loss of appetite.

**Antagonism**

See Drug Antagonism

**Antenatal**

See Prenatal

**Antepartum**

The time period before childbirth (refers to the mother).

**Antibiotic**

A natural or man-made substance that can kill or stop the growth of micro-organisms such as bacteria or fungi.

**Antibody**

Also known as immunoglobulin. A protein produced by the body's immune system that recognizes and fights infectious organisms and other foreign substances that enter the body. Each antibody is specific to a particular piece of an infectious organism or other foreign substance.

See Also:     Antigen

**Antifungal**

A natural or man-made substance that can kill or stop the growth of a fungus.

**Antigen**

Any substance that can stimulate the body to produce antibodies against it. Antigens include bacteria, viruses, pollen, and other foreign materials.

See Also:     Antibody

**Antigen-Presenting Cell (APC)**

A type of cell that collects foreign materials (antigens), digests them into small pieces, and "displays" or "presents" the

pieces on its surface. Other cells of the immune system recognize these pieces and become activated to fight the foreign invader. APCs include B lymphocytes, macrophages, and dendritic cells.

See Also:     Antigen  
                  B Lymphocytes  
                  Dendritic Cells  
                  Macrophage

### **Antineoplastic**

A natural or man-made substance that can kill or stop the growth or spread of cancer cells.

### **Antiprotozoal**

A natural or man-made substance that can kill or stop the growth of single-celled micro-organisms called protozoa.

### **Antiretroviral (ARV)**

A medication that interferes with the ability of a retrovirus (such as HIV) to make more copies of itself.

See Also:     Antiretroviral Therapy  
                  Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy

### **Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry**

An ongoing project to collect observational, nonexperimental information about the use of antiretrovirals during pregnancy. Information from the registry is used to help health care providers and patients weigh the potential risks and benefits of treatment. The registry does not use patient names, and registry staff obtain information from the patients' physicians. <http://www.APRegistry.com>

### **Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)**

Treatment with drugs that inhibit the ability of retroviruses (such as HIV) to multiply in the body. The antiretroviral therapy recommended for HIV infection is referred to as highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART), which uses a combination of medications to attack HIV at different points in its life cycle.

See Also:     Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy  
                 Retrovirus

### **Antisense Drugs**

A man-made segment of DNA or RNA that can lock onto a strand of DNA or RNA from a virus or other micro-organism. This marks the organism's genetic instructions for destruction and prevents the organism from making more copies of itself.

See Also:     Deoxyribonucleic Acid  
                 Ribonucleic Acid

### **Antiviral**

A natural or man-made substance that can kill or stop the growth of a virus.

### **APC**

See Antigen-Presenting Cell

### **Aphthous Ulcer**

A painful shallow sore in the mouth. The sore is usually oval shaped, with a yellow-white center surrounded by a narrow red ring. Aphthous ulcers are 1/8 to 1/4 inch across and have no blisters. They occur on the soft surfaces of the mouth, such as the inner cheeks, inner lips, soft areas of the roof and floor of the mouth, tongue, gums, and throat.

### **Apoptosis**

The deliberate, programmed death of a cell. Apoptosis occurs as a normal part of life and helps the body stay healthy. If cells are damaged (for example, cancerous cells or cells infected with HIV), the body orders those cells to die in order to contain the disease.

### **Approved Drugs**

In the United States, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) must approve a drug before it can be marketed and sold to the public. The approval process involves several steps, including laboratory and animal studies, clinical trials for safety and

efficacy, filing of a New Drug Application (NDA) by the manufacturer of the drug, FDA review of the application, and FDA approval/rejection of the application.

See Also: New Drug Application

**ARC**

See AIDS-Related Complex

**Area Under the Curve (AUC)**

A measure of how much drug reaches a person's bloodstream in a given period of time (usually the time between each dose or within 24 hours). The AUC is calculated by plotting the drug's blood levels on a graph at different times during the set period to form a curve. The area under this curve reflects the total drug exposure in the set time period.

**Arm**

Any of the treatment groups in a clinical trial. Most clinical trials have two arms, but some have three or even more. Each arm receives a different treatment or placebo.

See Also: Clinical Trial  
Placebo

**ARS**

See Acute Retroviral Syndrome

**ART**

See Antiretroviral Therapy

**Arthralgia**

Joint pain with symptoms such as heat, redness, tenderness to touch, loss of motion, or swelling.

**ARV**

See Antiretroviral



**ASO**

See AIDS Service Organization

**Aspartate Aminotransferase (AST)**

See Liver Function Tests

**Aspergillosis**

An infection of the lungs caused by the fungus *Aspergillus*. The infection may also spread through the blood to other organs. Symptoms include fever, chills, difficulty in breathing, and coughing up blood. If the infection reaches the brain, it may cause dementia.

**AST**

See Aspartate Aminotransferase

**Asymptomatic**

Having no obvious signs or symptoms of disease.

**Ataxia**

Partial or complete loss of coordination of voluntary muscular movements. This can interfere with a person's ability to walk, talk, eat, and perform other tasks of daily living.

**Attenuated**

A term used to describe a bacterium or virus that has been changed in the laboratory so that it is not harmful to people. Attenuated viruses are often used as vaccines because they can no longer cause disease, but can still stimulate a strong immune response. Examples include the vaccines against polio (Sabin oral vaccine), measles, mumps, and rubella.

**AUC**

See Area Under the Curve

**Autoantibody**

An antibody directed against the body's own tissue.

See Also: Antibody

**Avascular Necrosis (AVN)**

Death of bone (osteonecrosis) caused by a loss of blood supply to the bone tissue. AVN has occurred in the hip bones of some people with HIV, but it is not clear if bone death occurs because of HIV infection itself or as a side effect of the medications used to treat HIV. Symptoms include pain in the affected area of the body, limited range of motion, joint stiffness, limping, and muscle spasms. If untreated, AVN can cause progressive bone damage leading to bone collapse.

See Also:      Osteonecrosis

**AVN**

See Avascular Necrosis

**B2M**

See Beta-2 Microglobulin

**Bactericide**

A natural or man-made substance that kills bacteria.

**Bacteriostatic**

A natural or man-made substance that can prevent bacteria from reproducing, but cannot actually kill existing bacteria.

**Bacterium**

A microscopic organism consisting of one simple cell. Bacteria occur naturally almost everywhere on earth, including in soil, on skin, in the human gastrointestinal tract, and in many foods. Some bacteria can cause disease in humans.

**Baseline**

An initial measurement (for example, CD4 count or viral load) made before starting treatment or therapy for a disease or condition. In people infected with HIV, the baseline measurement is used as a reference point to monitor HIV infection.

**Basophil**

An infection-fighting white blood cell that causes inflammation in response to a micro-organism or other foreign invader.

**B-Cell Lymphoma**

A type of cancer of the lymphatic tissue. People with HIV are more prone to non-Hodgkin's and other B-cell lymphomas, some of which are considered AIDS-defining conditions in people with HIV.

See Also:      Lymphoma  
                    Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

**bDNA Assay**

See Branched Chain DNA Assay

### **Beta-2 Microglobulin (B2M)**

A protein found on the surface of white blood cells. Increased production or destruction of white blood cells causes B2M levels in the blood to increase. This increase is seen in people with cancers involving white blood cells and in people with advanced HIV disease.

### **b.i.d.**

Twice a day dosing instructions.

### **Bilirubin**

A yellowish substance excreted by the liver. Its measurement can be used as an indication of the health of the liver. Large quantities of bilirubin may cause the skin to take on a yellow tint (jaundice), and very high levels may cause brain damage.

### **Bioavailability**

Rate and extent to which a drug is absorbed and available in the tissues of the body.

### **Biological Response Modifiers (BRMs)**

Natural or man-made substances that can boost, direct, or restore immune system function.

### **Biopsy**

The surgical removal and examination of an organ or tissue to aid in diagnosis and treatment of a health condition.

### **Black Box Warning**

Information found at the beginning of a drug's prescribing information, manufacturer labeling, and promotional material. This information highlights important safety information, such as serious side effects, drug interactions, or use restrictions. The black box warning is one of the strongest warnings issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and is reserved for drugs with significant risks or monitoring requirements.

**Blip**

A temporary increase in viral load in someone who previously had undetectable virus and who later returns to having undetectable virus. The viral load during a blip is usually low (50 to 500 copies/mL).

See Also: Undetectable Viral Load

**Blood-Brain Barrier**

A selective obstacle between circulating blood and brain tissues that prevents damaging substances from reaching the brain. Certain substances easily cross the blood-brain barrier; others are completely blocked.

**B Lymphocytes**

Also known as B cells. Infection-fighting white blood cells that develop in the bone marrow and spleen. B lymphocytes produce antibodies. In people with HIV, the ability of B lymphocytes to do their job may be damaged.

See Also: Antibody

**Body Habitus Changes**

Abnormal changes in the body's physical characteristics.

See Also: Lipoatrophy  
Lipohypertrophy  
Wasting Syndrome

**Bone Marrow Suppression**

Damage to the bone marrow stem cells that produce new blood cells. Suppression of the bone marrow may be caused by drugs, toxic chemicals, or radiation.

**Booster**

An additional dose or doses of a vaccine taken after the initial dose to enhance the immune response to the vaccine. Also used as a term to describe a medicine given to enhance another medicine, such as using ritonavir (RTV) as a "booster" for other PIs.

**Branched Chain DNA Assay (bDNA Assay)**

A test that measures a person's viral load (level of HIV RNA in the blood) to identify HIV infection and monitor disease progression and treatment effectiveness. Results are reported as number of HIV RNA copies per mL of blood. bDNA assay is an alternative to measuring viral load by reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR).

See Also: Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction  
Viral Load

**BRMs**

See Biological Response Modifiers

**Bronchoscopy**

Visual examination of the bronchial passages of the lungs using an endoscope (a curved, flexible tube containing fibers that carry light down the tube and project an enlarged image of the bronchial passages onto a viewing screen). Can also be used for extraction of material from the lungs.

**Budding**

The final step in the HIV life cycle, when an individual virus pushes out ("buds") from the host cell, stealing part of the cell's outer envelope and freeing itself to attach to and infect another host cell.

**Buffalo Hump**

See Dorsocervical Fat Pad

**Burkitt's Lymphoma**

Also known as small noncleaved cell lymphoma. A type of non-Hodgkin's B-cell lymphoma that occurs more frequently in immunocompromised people, such as those infected with HIV.

See Also: Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

**Cachexia**

Loss of weight, muscle wasting, fatigue, weakness, and decrease of appetite in someone who is not actively trying to lose weight. Usually associated with serious disease.

**CAM**

See Complementary and Alternative Medicine

**Candidiasis**

Infection caused by a species of the yeast-like fungus *Candida*, usually *C. albicans*. Candidiasis can affect the skin, nails, and mucous membranes throughout the body, including the mouth (thrush), esophagus, vagina, intestines, and lungs. The infection appears as white patches when in the mouth or any other mucous membrane. Candidiasis is considered an AIDS-defining condition in people with HIV.

**Cardiomyopathy**

A condition that weakens the heart muscle or causes a change in heart muscle structure. Cardiomyopathy is associated with inadequate heart pumping or other heart function abnormalities. Cardiomyopathy may occur in HIV-infected people with advanced disease. Irregular heartbeat, abnormal heart and breath sounds, decreased heart function, or heart enlargement may indicate cardiomyopathy.

**CARE Act**

See Ryan White Care Act

**CBC**

See Complete Blood Count

**CBO**

See Community-Based Organization

### CCR5

Chemokine receptor 5 (CCR5) is a protein on the surface of some immune system cells. It is one of two co-receptors that HIV can use along with the CD4 receptor to bind to and enter host cells (the other co-receptor is CXCR4).

See Also:      CD4 Receptor  
                    Co-Receptor  
                    CXCR4

### CD4 Cell

Also known as helper T cell or CD4 lymphocyte. A type of infection-fighting white blood cell that carries the CD4 receptor on its surface. CD4 cells coordinate the immune response, signaling other cells in the immune system to perform their special functions. The number of CD4 cells in a sample of blood is an indicator of the health of the immune system. HIV infects and kills CD4 cells, leading to a weakened immune system.

See Also:      CD4 Cell Count  
                    CD4 Receptor

### CD4 Cell Count

A measurement of the number of CD4 cells in a sample of blood. The CD4 count is one of the most useful indicators of the health of the immune system and the progression of HIV/AIDS. A CD4 cell count is used by health care providers to determine when to begin, interrupt, or halt anti-HIV therapy; when to give preventive treatment for opportunistic infections; and to measure response to treatment. A normal CD4 cell count is between 500 and 1,400 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> of blood, but an individual's CD4 count can vary. In HIV-infected individuals, a CD4 count at or below 200 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> is considered an AIDS-defining condition.

See Also:      CD4 Cell

### CD4 Percentage

The percent of lymphocytes (white blood cells) that are CD4 cells. This measurement is less likely to vary in between blood



tests than CD4 count, but CD4 count remains a more reliable measure of immune function than CD4 percentage for most people.

See Also:      CD4 Cell  
                    CD4 Cell Count

### **CD4 Receptor**

A specific molecule present on the surface of a CD4 cell. HIV recognizes and binds to a CD4 receptor and a co-receptor to gain entry into a host cell.

See Also:      CD4 Cell  
                    Co-Receptor

### **CD8 Cell**

Also called a cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL), killer T cell, or suppressor T cell. A type of white blood cell that is able to identify and kill cells infected with bacteria, viruses, or other foreign invaders.

### **CDC**

See Centers For Disease Control and Prevention

### **CDCINFO**

A service sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide referrals, education, and information about topics including HIV/AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), immunizations, and disease outbreaks. The CDCINFO hotline number is 1-800-CDCINFO (232-4636).

### **Cell-Mediated Immunity**

Immune protection provided by the direct action of immune cells. With this type of immune protection, the response to infectious micro-organisms is performed by specific cells, such as CD8 cells, macrophages, and other white blood cells, rather than by antibodies. The main role of cell-mediated immunity is to fight viral infections.

See Also:      Antibody  
                    Macrophage

## **Cellular Immunity**

See Cell-Mediated Immunity

## **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

An agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that is charged with protecting the health and safety of citizens at home and abroad. The CDC serves as the national focus for developing and applying disease prevention and control, environmental health, and health promotion and education activities designed to improve the health of the people of the United States.

## **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**

Previously known as the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA). An agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) responsible for administering Medicare, Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA), and other health-related programs.

## **Central Nervous System (CNS)**

The part of the nervous system made up of the brain, spinal cord, and spinal nerves. These serve as the main "processing center" for the whole nervous system, and together control all the workings of the body. HIV can infect and damage parts of the central nervous system.

## **Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF)**

A clear, colorless fluid that fills the spaces in the brain and the central canal of the spinal cord, as well as the spaces between nerve cells.

## **Cervical Cancer**

A condition in which a cancerous growth (also called a malignancy) develops on the lower portion of the uterus (cervix).

See Also:     Cervical Dysplasia  
                  Human Papillomavirus  
                  Pap Smear

**Cervical Dysplasia**

The abnormal growth of cervical cells, usually with no symptoms. It can be detected by a Pap smear and treatment can prevent it from progressing to cervical cancer.

See Also:      Cervical Cancer  
                    Human Papillomavirus  
                    Pap Smear

**Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia (CIN)**

A general term for the growth of abnormal cells on the surface of the cervix. Numbers from 1 to 3 may be used to describe how much of the cervix contains abnormal cells.

See Also:      Cervical Dysplasia

**Cervix**

The lower, narrow end of the uterus that forms a canal between the uterus and vagina.

**Chancroid**

A sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by a bacterium called *Hemophilus ducreyi*. Often causes swollen lymph nodes and painful sores on the penis, vagina, or anus. The lesions appear after an incubation period of 3 to 5 days and may facilitate HIV transmission.

**Chemokines**

Proteins that serve as chemical messengers to control the activities of the immune system. Chemokines are involved in a wide variety of processes, including the control of infectious diseases, cancers, and inflammation. Chemokines include interferons, interleukins, and many other small proteins.

**Chemotherapy**

Treatment using anti-cancer drugs, which kill or prevent the growth and division of cells. The drugs enter the bloodstream and travel through the body killing mostly cancer cells, but also some healthy cells.

**C**

**Chlamydia**

A sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by a bacterium called *Chlamydia trachomatis*. The bacteria infect the genital tract and if left untreated can cause damage to the female and male reproductive systems, resulting in infertility.

**Cholesterol**

A fat-like substance used as a building block for cells. Cholesterol is both made by the liver and absorbed from food and is carried in the blood. When blood cholesterol levels are too high (hyperlipidemia), some of the cholesterol is deposited on the walls of the blood vessels, increasing the risk of heart disease and atherosclerosis. Use of PIs may also increase cholesterol levels.

See Also:      Hyperlipidemia

**Chronic Idiopathic Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIPD)**

Chronic, spontaneous loss or destruction of myelin, a white fatty material that protects and insulates nerve cells. People with CIPD show progressive, usually symmetrical weakness in the arms and legs. CIPD can be one of the symptoms of lactic acidosis or progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy.

See Also:      Lactic Acidosis  
                    Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy

**CIN**

See Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia

**CIPD**

See Chronic Idiopathic Demyelinating Polyneuropathy

**CIPRA**

See Comprehensive International Program of Research on AIDS

**Clade**

A group of organisms that are genetically similar and descended from a single parent organism. With HIV, the term “clade” refers to a group of specific HIV-1 strains within an HIV subtype. For example, HIV-1 subtype M contains clades A through H, J, and K. Clades B and C account for the majority of HIV infections around the world.

See Also: Subtype

**Class-Sparing Regimen**

An anti-HIV drug regimen that purposefully does not include one or more classes of anti-HIV drugs. A class-sparing regimen may be prescribed to “save” certain classes of drugs for later use or to avoid side effects specific to a class. For example, a PI-sparing regimen would not include any PIs. Because some PIs may cause an increase in cholesterol in the blood, a PI-sparing regimen might be prescribed for an HIV-infected person who already has high cholesterol levels.

**Clinical Alert**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) publishes these electronic bulletins containing urgent early results of clinical trials. The data in these bulletins warn about possible morbidity (sickness rates) and mortality (death rates) in participants involved in the clinical trials.

**Clinical Endpoint**

A measurement used in clinical trials to evaluate the effect of the treatment being tested. Examples of clinical endpoints for HIV disease include death, serious drug toxicity, or development of an AIDS-defining illness. Because these endpoints may be difficult to measure without long-term follow-up, surrogate (substitute) short-term endpoints, such as a change in viral load or CD4 count, may also be used as clinical endpoints.

See Also: Clinical Trial

### C

#### **Clinical Failure**

The occurrence or recurrence of HIV-related infections or a decline in physical health despite taking an HIV treatment regimen for a minimum of three months. Clinical failure may occur as a result of virologic or immunologic failure.

See Also:     Immunologic Failure  
              Virologic Failure

#### **Clinical Practice Guidelines**

Recommendations by panels of expert health care practitioners designed to assist clinicians and patients in making decisions about appropriate health care for specific diseases and conditions.

#### **Clinical Trial**

A research study that uses human volunteers to answer specific health questions. Carefully conducted clinical trials are regarded as the fastest and safest way to find effective treatments for diseases and conditions, as well as other ways to improve health. Interventional trials use controlled conditions to determine whether experimental treatments or new ways of using known treatments are safe and effective. Observational trials gather information about health issues from groups of people in their natural settings.

#### **ClinicalTrials.gov**

An online, searchable database of information about clinical trials sponsored by governments, pharmaceutical companies, and other organizations. This database is managed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) through its National Library of Medicine (NLM). The Web address for the database is [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov).

See Also:     Clinical Trial

#### **C<sub>MAX</sub>**

The maximum (peak) amount of drug measurable in the blood after a dose is administered.

See Also:     C<sub>MIN</sub>

**CMIN**

The lowest (trough) amount of drug measurable in the blood after a dose is administered.

See Also: CMAX

**CMS**

See Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

**CMV**

See Cytomegalovirus

**CMV Retinitis**

See Cytomegalovirus Retinitis

**CNS**

See Central Nervous System

**Coccidioidomycosis**

Also called desert fever, San Joaquin Valley fever, or valley fever. An infectious disease caused by the inhalation of spores of *Coccidioides immitis*. The disease is especially common in hot, dry regions of the Southwestern United States and Central and South America. It is an AIDS-defining condition in people with HIV.

See Also: AIDS-Defining Condition

**Cognitive Impairment**

Loss of the ability to process, learn, and remember information. The progression of HIV disease may lead to cognitive impairment.

See Also: HIV-Associated Dementia

**Cohort**

A group of individuals who are alike in some way. For example, the people in a cohort of HIV-infected individuals are all infected with HIV.

### C

#### **Co-Infection**

Infection with more than one virus, bacterium, or other micro-organism at a given time. For example, an HIV-infected individual may be co-infected with hepatitis C virus (HCV) or tuberculosis (TB).

#### **Colitis**

Inflammation of the colon (large intestine). This may lead to intestinal bleeding, ulcers, or perforations (holes) in the colon.

#### **Combination Therapy**

Two or more drugs used together to achieve optimal results in controlling HIV infection. Combination therapy has proven more effective in decreasing viral load than monotherapy (single-drug therapy), which is no longer recommended for the treatment of HIV. An example of combination therapy is the use of two NRTIs plus a PI or an NNRTI.

#### **Community-Based Organization (CBO)**

A service organization that provides social services to local clients. CBOs include nonprofit organizations and free clinics targeted at helping people with HIV.

#### **Community Programs for Clinical Research on AIDS (CPCRA)**

Also known as the Terry Bein Community Programs for Clinical Research on AIDS. A network of clinical research units composed of community-based health care providers. CPCRA's aim is to serve populations under-represented in previous clinical trials. CPCRA is funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

#### **Co-Morbid Condition**

Any disease or condition that occurs at the same time as another disease or condition. The second disease may worsen or be worsened by the initial disease. For example, tuberculosis (TB) may occur as a co-morbid condition in an individual infected with HIV, and the HIV infection may worsen the TB.



**Compassionate Use**

General term used to describe any program that provides an experimental therapy outside of clinical trials to patients who do not have any FDA-approved treatment options (for example, HIV-infected individuals who have extensive drug resistance to approved anti-HIV drugs). To enroll in compassionate use programs, an individual has to meet strict medical criteria.

See Also:      Expanded Access  
                    Investigational Drug

**Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM)**

Health care practices not currently considered part of conventional medicine. A therapy is called complementary when it is used in addition to conventional treatments. It is called alternative when it is used instead of conventional treatment.

CAM includes a broad range of healing therapies, approaches, and systems. Some examples of CAM are acupuncture, herbs, homeopathy, chiropractic, hypnosis, and traditional Chinese medicine.

**Complete Blood Count (CBC)**

A general blood test that measures the levels of white and red blood cells, platelets, hematocrit, and hemoglobin in a sample of blood. Changes in the amounts of each of these may indicate infection, anemia, or other health problems.

**Comprehensive International Program of Research on AIDS (CIPRA)**

A program administered by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to support research and development of practical, affordable, and acceptable methods to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS in resource-poor countries.

**Condyloma Acuminatum**

See Genital Warts

### C

#### Contagious

Easily passable between people through normal day-to-day contact. For example, chicken pox is both an infectious (causing infection) and a contagious disease. In contrast, HIV is an example of an infectious disease that is not a contagious disease (it cannot be passed from person to person through casual contact).

#### Contraindication

A specific situation in which a particular treatment should NOT be used because it may be harmful to the patient. For example, some anti-HIV drugs are primarily broken down by the liver, and should not be given to people who have liver damage.

#### Controlled Trial

A control is a standard against which experimental treatments may be compared and evaluated for safety and effectiveness. In clinical trials, one group of patients may be given an experimental drug, while another group (the control group) is given either a standard treatment for the disease or a placebo.

See Also: Placebo

#### Core

The inner protective coat of protein that surrounds the genetic material of most viruses. In HIV, the core is mostly made up of the p24 protein, which surrounds two copies of HIV's genetic material.

#### Co-Receptor

A protein on the surface of a cell that serves as a second binding site for a virus or other molecule. Although the CD4 protein is HIV's primary receptor, the virus must also bind either the CCR5 or CXCR4 co-receptor to get into a host cell.

See Also: CCR5  
CD4 Receptor  
CXCR4

**CPCRA**

See Community Programs for Clinical Research on AIDS

**Creatinine**

A protein found in muscles and blood and excreted by the kidneys into the urine. The level of creatinine in the blood or urine provides a measure of kidney function. Increased levels of creatinine indicate abnormal or impaired kidney function.

**Cross Resistance**

Cross resistance occurs when a micro-organism has changed (mutated) in such a way that it loses its susceptibility to multiple drugs simultaneously. For example, HIV resistance to one NNRTI drug usually produces resistance to the entire NNRTI drug class.

See Also:     Drug Resistance  
                  Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase  
                  Inhibitors

**Cross Sensitivity**

Occurrence of a drug reaction that may occur again with the use of a different, but related, drug. Cross sensitivity can occur within a drug class, such as when a person reacts to all NNRTIs similarly after treatment with just one. Cross sensitivity can also occur among chemically similar drug classes. For example, a person who has a negative side effect to a sulfa-based antibiotic is at risk for the same negative side effect if he or she takes any other sulfa-based drug.

**Cryotherapy**

The use of liquid nitrogen to freeze and destroy a lesion or growth to prevent further spread of the growth. In people with HIV, it is used to treat lesions caused by Kaposi's sarcoma and condyloma acuminatum (genital warts).

See Also:     Genital Warts  
                  Kaposi's Sarcoma

### C

#### **Cryptococcal Meningitis**

A life-threatening infection of the membranes surrounding the brain and the spinal cord caused by the fungus *Cryptococcus neoformans*. Symptoms include headache, dizziness, stiff neck, and, if untreated, coma and death. Immunocompromised individuals are more susceptible to this infection. It is considered an AIDS-defining condition in people with HIV.

#### **Cryptococcosis**

An infection caused by the fungus *Cryptococcus neoformans*. This fungus typically enters the body through the lungs and usually spreads to the brain, causing cryptococcal meningitis. In some cases, it can also affect the skin, skeletal system, and urinary tract. It is considered an AIDS-defining condition in people with HIV.

See Also:      Cryptococcal Meningitis

#### **Cryptosporidiosis**

A diarrheal disease caused by the protozoa *Cryptosporidium*. Symptoms include abdominal cramps and severe chronic diarrhea. It is considered an AIDS-defining condition in people with HIV.

See Also:      *Cryptosporidium*

#### **Cryptosporidium**

The protozoan that causes cryptosporidiosis. It is found in the intestines of animals and may be transmitted to humans by direct contact with an infected animal, by eating contaminated food, or by drinking contaminated water.

See Also:      Cryptosporidiosis

#### **CSF**

See Cerebrospinal Fluid

#### **CTL**

See CD8 Cell

**CTL**

See Cytotoxic T Lymphocyte

**Cutaneous**

Of, relating to, or affecting the skin.

**CXCR4**

Chemokine receptor 4 (CXCR4, also known as fusin) is a protein on the surface of some immune system cells. It is one of two co-receptors that HIV can use along with the CD4 receptor to bind to and enter host cells (the other co-receptor is CCR5).

See Also:      CCR5  
                    CD4 Receptor  
                    Co-Receptor

**CYP450**

See Cytochrome P450

**Cytochrome P450 (CYP450)**

A system of enzymes, located primarily in the liver, that participate in the break-down of drugs. Many drugs inhibit or enhance the activity of these enzymes. Any change in CYP450 enzyme activity may cause an increase or decrease in blood levels of drugs broken down through this system.

See Also:      Drug Interaction

**Cytokines**

Proteins produced by white blood cells that act as chemical messengers between cells. Cytokines can stimulate or inhibit growth or activity of immune cells and are essential for a coordinated immune response. Cytokines include the interleukins and the interferons.

**Cytomegalovirus (CMV)**

A herpesvirus that can cause infections, including pneumonia (infection of the lungs), gastroenteritis (infection of the gastrointestinal tract), encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), or

### C

retinitis (infection of the eye), in immunosuppressed people. Although CMV can infect most organs of the body, HIV-infected people are most susceptible to CMV retinitis.

See Also: Cytomegalovirus Retinitis  
Herpesviruses

### **Cytomegalovirus Retinitis**

An infectious eye disease caused by cytomegalovirus (CMV). People with CMV retinitis can lose their vision, and CMV retinitis is the most common cause of blindness among people infected with HIV.

See Also: Cytomegalovirus

### **Cytopenia**

A condition in which the production of one or more kind of blood cells is greatly reduced or stops completely. Some medications used to treat HIV or cancer may cause cytopenia.

### **Cytotoxic**

Toxic or destructive to cells. For example, cancer chemotherapy is cytotoxic because it destroys both cancerous and non-cancerous cells.

### **Cytotoxic T Lymphocyte (CTL)**

See CD8 Cell

**DAIDS**

See Division of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

**Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB)**

An independent committee of community representatives and clinical research experts who review data while a clinical trial is in progress to ensure that participants are not exposed to undue risk. A DSMB may recommend that a trial be stopped if there are safety concerns or if the trial objectives have been achieved, or can require changes to the study design to ensure safety of participants.

**Dementia**

See AIDS Dementia Complex

**Dendritic Cells**

A type of antigen-presenting cell that picks up foreign substances from the bloodstream and “presents” them to other parts of the immune system, activating an immune response against the foreign invader.

See Also:     Antigen  
                  Antigen-Presenting Cell

**Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA)**

Chemical structure that contains the genetic instructions for reproduction and protein synthesis for all cells and for many viruses.

**Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

The U.S. government’s principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and for providing essential human services. HHS includes more than 300 programs covering a wide spectrum of activities. Programs are administered by 11 operating divisions, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). HHS works closely with state and local governments, and many HHS-funded services are provided at the local level by state or county agencies or through private-sector grantees.

**D**

# D

### Desensitization

Gradually increasing the dose of a medicine in order to avoid severe side effects. Desensitization procedures are sometimes used when administering some anti-HIV drugs and antibiotics.

### DEXA

See Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry Scan

### Diabetes

Also known as diabetes mellitus. A disease characterized by high levels of sugar in the blood (hyperglycemia). It can be caused by too little insulin (a hormone produced by the pancreas to regulate blood sugar), resistance to insulin, or both. Some anti-HIV drugs may cause or worsen diabetes.

See Also:      Hyperglycemia  
                    Insulin Resistance

### Diarrhea

Uncontrolled, loose, watery, and frequent bowel movements caused by diet, infection, medication, or irritation or inflammation of the intestine. Severe or long-lasting diarrhea can lead to weight loss and malnutrition. The most common infectious organisms causing HIV-related diarrhea include cytomegalovirus (CMV); the parasites *Cryptosporidium*, *Microsporidia*, and *Giardia*; and the bacteria *Mycobacterium avium* and *Mycobacterium intracellulare*. Bacteria and parasites that cause diarrheal symptoms in otherwise healthy people may cause more severe, prolonged, or recurrent diarrhea in people with HIV or AIDS.

### Directly Observed Therapy (DOT)

A treatment strategy in which a health care provider or other observer watches a patient take each dose of a drug. This strategy is used with diseases like tuberculosis (TB) and HIV infection, where adherence is important for effective treatment and to prevent emergence of drug resistance.

See Also:      Adherence



**Discordant Couple**

A pair of long-term sexual partners in which one person is infected with a sexually transmitted infection (such as HIV) and the other is not.

**Division of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (DAIDS)**

A division of the National Institutes of Health's (NIH's) National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). DAIDS was formed in 1986 to address the national research needs created by the HIV/AIDS epidemic; to increase basic knowledge of the pathogenesis, natural history, and transmission of HIV disease; and to support research to promote HIV detection, treatment, and prevention.

See Also:      National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
                 National Institutes of Health

**DNA**

See Deoxyribonucleic Acid

**Dorsocervical Fat Pad**

A type of lipodystrophy (problem in the way the body produces, uses, and distributes fat) in which fatty tissue builds up on the upper back and neck. It most often occurs in HIV-infected people as a result of PI or NRTI drug treatment. This fat buildup, also known as "buffalo hump," may also be associated with other metabolic side effects, such as high insulin levels.

See Also:      Lipodystrophy

**Dose-Response Relationship**

The relationship between the dose of a drug and its corresponding effect on the body. If a drug exhibits a dose-response effect, it means that as the dose increases, so does the effect.

**DOT**

See Directly Observed Therapy

# D

### Double-Blind Study

A clinical trial design in which neither the participants nor the study staff know which individuals are receiving the experimental treatment and which are receiving a placebo (or another “control” therapy). Double-blind trials produce more objective results because the expectations of the study staff and the participants do not affect the outcome.

See Also:      Controlled Trial

### DRESS

See Drug Rash with Eosinophilia and Systematic Systems

### Drug Antagonism

An interaction between two or more drugs in which one drug blocks or reverses the effect of another drug.

### Drug-Drug Interaction

A change in the way a drug works when it is taken along with another drug. The effect may be an increase or a decrease in the action of either drug, or it may be a side effect that does not normally occur with either drug alone.

### Drug Formulation

See Formulation

### Drug Holiday

See Structured Treatment Interruption

### Drug Interaction

An effect that can occur when one drug is taken with another drug or when the drug is taken with particular foods. Possible effects include changes in absorption from the digestive tract, changes in the rate of the drug’s breakdown in the liver, new or increased side effects, or changes in the drug’s activity.

See Also:      Drug-Drug Interaction

**Drug Rash with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS)**

A rare but life-threatening allergic drug reaction that sometimes occurs in people taking certain NNRTIs. Symptoms include severe rash along with fever, blood abnormalities, and organ inflammation.

**Drug Resistance**

The ability of some micro-organisms, such as bacteria, viruses, and parasites, to adapt so that they can multiply even in the presence of drugs that would normally kill them.

**Drug Toxicity**

See Toxicity

**DSMB**

See Data and Safety Monitoring Board

**Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry Scan (DEXA)**

A painless test that uses low energy x-rays to measure the mineral content of bones. DEXA scans are commonly used to test for osteopenia or osteoporosis, and are also used to evaluate lipodystrophy.

See Also:     Lipodystrophy  
                 Osteopenia  
                 Osteoporosis

**Dyslipidemia**

Abnormal levels of fat in the blood, usually referring to abnormally high levels. Dyslipidemia may occur as a result of HIV infection or as a side effect of some anti-HIV drugs.

See Also:     Hyperlipidemia

**Dyspnea**

Difficult or labored breathing.



**EBV**

See Epstein-Barr Virus

**EF**

See Eosinophilic Folliculitis

**E****Effectiveness**

The measure of the success of a treatment for a particular disease or condition.

**Efficacy**

The ability of a treatment to produce the desired effect on the disease or condition being treated.

**ELISA**

See Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay

**Encephalitis**

Inflammation of the brain, which can be caused by a virus infection. The brain tissue swells, which may lead to the destruction of nerve cells, bleeding within the brain, and brain damage.

**Endemic**

A term that refers to diseases associated with particular geographic regions or populations. For example, malaria is endemic in tropical regions of the world where mosquitoes carry the parasite that causes malaria.

**Endpoint**

General term for a measurement used to analyze results of a clinical trial. Common endpoints of a clinical trial are dose-limiting toxicity of a study drug and progression of the disease or condition being studied.

See Also: Surrogate Endpoint

### End-Stage Disease

The final period or phase in the course of a disease that leads to a person's death. An example of this is end-stage renal disease (ESRD), in which a person's kidneys have deteriorated to the point that the damage is life-threatening and likely fatal.

### Enteric

Of or relating to the intestines. This term also refers to a coating used on some drugs to prevent the breakdown of the drug by the stomach before it has a chance to be absorbed by the intestines.

### Enteritis

Inflammation of the small intestine caused by bacterial or viral infection. Often causes diarrhea and dehydration, and may also involve the stomach and large intestine.

See Also: Colitis

### Entry Inhibitors

A class of anti-HIV drugs designed to disrupt the ability of HIV to enter a host cell through the cell's surface. This class includes receptor inhibitors (CD4, CCR5, or CXCR4) and fusion inhibitors.

See Also: Fusion Inhibitors

### Envelope

The outer protective membrane of HIV, composed of two layers of fat-like molecules called lipids. HIV uses specific proteins embedded in the envelope to attach to and enter host cells.

### Enzyme

A protein that helps a chemical reaction happen by decreasing the energy needed for the reaction to occur.

**Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)**

A highly sensitive laboratory test used to determine the presence of antibodies to HIV in the blood or saliva. Positive ELISA test results indicate that a person is HIV infected, but these results should be confirmed with a highly specific laboratory test called a Western blot.

See Also: Western Blot

**Eosinophilia**

A condition in which the number of eosinophils (a type of white blood cell) in the blood is higher than normal.

Eosinophilia is often a response to infection or allergens (substances that cause an allergic reaction).

**Eosinophilic Folliculitis (EF)**

A type of folliculitis (inflammation of hair follicles) characterized by recurring patches of inflamed, pus-filled sores, primarily on the face and sometimes on the back or upper arms. The sores usually spread, may itch intensely, and often leave areas of darker than normal skin (hyperpigmentation) when they heal. HIV-associated EF most commonly occurs in people with low CD4 counts.

**Epidemic**

A disease that has spread rapidly through a segment of the human population in a given geographic area.

**Epidemiology**

The branch of medical science that studies the occurrence, distribution, and control of a disease in populations.

**Epithelium**

The protective covering of the internal and external organs of the body, including the lining of blood vessels, body cavities, glands, and organs. In addition to its protective properties, the epithelium also provides a surface to absorb and secrete chemicals needed by the body.

### **Epitope**

A particular segment of an antigen that the body's antibodies can recognize and bind to.

See Also:      Antibody  
                  Antigen

### **Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV)**

A human herpesvirus that causes infectious mononucleosis (mono), a contagious disease. Symptoms of infectious mononucleosis are fever, sore throat, and swollen lymph nodes. EBV infection can also lead to oral hairy leukoplakia, Burkitt's lymphoma, and nasopharyngeal carcinoma, especially in immunocompromised people.

See Also:      Burkitt's Lymphoma  
                  Human Herpesviruses  
                  Oral Hairy Leukoplakia

### **Erythema**

Abnormal redness of the skin caused by a buildup of red blood cells in the capillaries.

### **Erythema Multiforme**

A type of rash that can occur in response to medications, illness, or infections such as herpes simplex or mycoplasma infections. Severe forms of this condition include Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN). These may also be serious side effects of some anti-HIV drugs.

See Also:      Stevens-Johnson Syndrome  
                  Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis

### **Erythrocytes**

Red blood cells, whose primary function is to carry oxygen throughout the body.



**Etiology**

The branch of medical science that studies causes of disease. Such causes are called etiologic agents. For example, HIV is the etiologic agent of AIDS.

**Exclusion/Inclusion Criteria**

See Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

**Expanded Access**

Refers to any of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) procedures that allow distribution of experimental drugs to people who are failing currently available treatments and are unable to participate in ongoing clinical trials. These procedures include compassionate, treatment, or emergency use.

See Also:      Compassionate Use

**Experimental Drug**

See Investigational Drug



**Fat Maldistribution/Redistribution**

See Lipodystrophy

**FDA**

See Food and Drug Administration

**FDCs**

See Follicular Dendritic Cells

**Fixed-Dose Combination**

A capsule or tablet containing two or more drugs. This type of drug formulation allows a patient to take multiple medications at one time to decrease pill burden.

See Also:      Formulation  
                    Pill Burden

**Follicular Dendritic Cells (FDCs)**

A specific type of dendritic cell found in lymphoid tissues such as the thymus and lymph nodes.

See Also:      Dendritic Cells

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) agency responsible for ensuring the safety and effectiveness of drugs, biologics, vaccines, and medical devices. The FDA also works with the blood banking industry to safeguard the nation's blood supply.

**Formulation**

The physical form in which a drug is administered. Examples include tablets, capsules, liquids, and injectables. A single drug may be available in multiple formulations.

**Fungus**

A group of primitive organisms including mushrooms, yeasts, rusts, and molds, some of which can infect humans and cause disease. For example, mouth thrush is caused by the fungus *Candida*.

## **HIV/AIDS Glossary**

### **Fusin**

See CXCR4

### **Fusion Inhibitors**

A class of anti-HIV drugs that inhibits the fusing of HIV's outer envelope with the host cell membrane, preventing infection of the cell.

See Also:      Envelope

**F**

**Gamma Globulin**

The part of blood that contains antibodies. It is available as an injectable treatment that can provide temporary protection from certain infections.

See Also:     Antibody  
                  Passive Immunotherapy

**GART**

See Genotypic Assay

**G****Gastrointestinal (GI)**

Of or relating to the stomach or intestines.

**G-CSF**

See Granulocyte-Colony Stimulating Factor

**Gene**

A short segment of DNA or RNA that acts as a blueprint for building a specific protein.

See Also:     Deoxyribonucleic Acid  
                  Ribonucleic Acid

**Gene Therapy**

An experimental technique that uses genes to treat or prevent disease. This technique may eventually allow doctors to treat a disorder by inserting a gene into a patient's cells instead of using drugs or surgery.

See Also:     Gene

**Genetic Engineering**

Artificially changing an organism's genetic material (DNA or RNA) in order to change particular characteristics of that organism. This laboratory technique can produce proteins for use as drugs and vaccines. For example, a virus such as canarypox virus (which does not cause disease in humans) can be genetically engineered so that it produces specific HIV proteins. The modified canarypox virus can then be tested as an experimental HIV vaccine.

### **Genital Ulcer Disease**

Sores on the genitals, usually caused by a sexually transmitted disease (STD) such as herpes, syphilis, or chancroid. The presence of genital ulcers may increase the risk of becoming infected with HIV through sexual intercourse.

### **Genital Warts**

Also known as condyloma acuminatum and venereal warts. Growths or bumps that appear in and around the vagina, anus, or cervix in females or on the penis, scrotum, groin, or thigh in males. They can be raised or flat, single or multiple, small or large. Some cluster together to form a cauliflower-like shape. They are caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV) and are usually flesh-colored and painless.

See Also: Human Papillomavirus

### **Genitourinary Tract**

Also called genitourinary system, urogenital system, or urogenital tract. The organs involved in the production and excretion of urine and in reproduction.

### **Genome**

The complete set of genes for a particular organism.

See Also: Gene

### **Genotypic Assay (GART)**

Also known as Genotypic Antiretroviral Resistance Test (GART). A test that determines if HIV is resistant to particular anti-HIV drugs. The test analyzes a sample of the virus from an individual's blood to identify any genetic mutations that are associated with resistance to specific drugs.

See Also: Drug Resistance

### **GI**

See Gastrointestinal

**Glycoprotein**

A substance composed of both a protein and a carbohydrate (a sugar molecule) joined together by a chemical linkage.

**GM-CSF**

See Granulocyte Macrophage-Colony Stimulating Factor

**Gonorrhea**

A sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the bacterium *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. Many people with gonorrhea have no symptoms. If symptoms do occur, they may be burning on urination, frequent urination, yellow or green discharge from the genitals, redness or swelling of the genitals, and a burning or itching sensation of the genitals. Active gonorrhea infection may increase the risk of becoming infected with HIV through sexual intercourse.

**G****gp41**

Glycoprotein 41. One of the proteins embedded in the outer envelope of HIV. gp41 plays a key role in HIV's infection of CD4 cells by fusing HIV's envelope with the host cell membrane, allowing the virus to enter the cell.

See Also:      Envelope  
                    Fusion Inhibitors

**gp120**

Glycoprotein 120. One of the proteins embedded in the outer envelope of HIV. gp120 projects from the surface of HIV and binds to the CD4 receptor on CD4 cells, initiating the process by which HIV enters and infects a host cell.

See Also:      Envelope

**gp160**

Glycoprotein 160. A precursor of HIV envelope proteins gp41 and gp120. gp160 is cut by HIV protease to form gp120 and gp41.

See Also:     Protease  
                  gp120  
                  gp41

### **Granulocyte**

A type of white blood cell particularly important in fighting bacterial infections.

## **G**

### **Granulocyte-Colony Stimulating Factor (G-CSF)**

A protein that stimulates the production of infection-fighting white blood cells. A laboratory-made version of G-CSF called filgrastim is used to treat low white blood cell levels, which may occur after chemotherapy or as a result of certain diseases.

### **Granulocyte Macrophage-Colony Stimulating Factor (GM-CSF)**

A protein that stimulates the production of infection-fighting white blood cells. A laboratory-made version of GM-CSF called sargramostim is used to treat low white blood cell levels, which may occur after chemotherapy or as a result of certain diseases.

### **Granulocytopenia**

A lower than normal number of specific white blood cells.



**HAART**

See Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy

**Half-Life**

The time period in which the concentration of a drug falls to half its original concentration.

**HBV**

See Hepatitis B Virus

**HCFA**

See Health Care Financing Administration

**HCV**

See Hepatitis C Virus

**Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA)**

See Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

**Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**

A U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) agency that directs national health programs aimed at improving the health of Americans by assuring quality health care to underserved, vulnerable, and special-needs populations. Among other functions, HRSA administers the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act and the AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETCs) to provide treatment and services for those affected by HIV/AIDS.

See Also:     AIDS Education and Training Centers  
                  Ryan White Care Act

**HELLP Syndrome**

A term that stands for Hemolysis, Elevated Liver enzyme levels, and a Low Platelet count. This is a rare but serious complication that can develop in the third trimester of pregnancy. Symptoms may include liver, blood pressure, and bleeding problems that can harm both the mother and the baby. Pregnant women taking NRTIs for HIV infection are at an increased risk for developing HELLP syndrome.

### **Helper T Cells**

See CD4 Cell

### **Hematocrit**

A laboratory measurement that determines the percentage of red blood cells in a sample of blood. In women, red blood cells are normally 37 to 47 percent of the blood. In men, red blood cells are normally 40 to 54 percent of the blood.

### **Hematotoxic**

Toxic or destructive to the blood or bone marrow.

### **Hemoglobin**

A protein in red blood cells that transports oxygen from the lungs to the tissues of the body.

### **Hemolysis**

Rupture of red blood cell membranes, causing a release of hemoglobin.

See Also: Hemoglobin

### **Hemophilia**

A hereditary blood defect that occurs almost exclusively in males and is characterized by delayed clotting of the blood. This leads to difficulty in controlling bleeding, even after minor injuries.

### **Hepatic**

Pertaining to the liver.

### **Hepatic Necrosis**

Death of liver cells.

See Also: Hepatotoxicity

### **Hepatic Steatosis**

Accumulation of too much fat inside liver cells. Also known as “fatty liver.”

See Also: Lactic Acidosis

## Hepatitis

Inflammation of the liver. This condition can lead to liver damage and liver cancer.

See Also:     Hepatitis B Virus  
              Hepatitis C Virus

## Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)

The virus that causes hepatitis B, an inflammation of the liver that can lead to liver damage and liver cancer. HBV is spread through contact with the blood of an infected person, through sexual intercourse, or from mother to child during childbirth. A vaccine is available to prevent infection with this virus, and hepatitis B can be treated with several drugs.

**H**

## Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)

The virus that causes hepatitis C, an inflammation of the liver that can lead to liver damage and liver cancer. HCV is primarily spread through contact with the blood of an infected person. There is no vaccine for HCV, and the only current treatment for hepatitis C is a combination of the drugs peginterferon and ribavirin.

## Hepatomegaly

Enlargement of the liver.

## Hepatotoxicity

A general term for liver damage. Often caused by medications, including those used to treat HIV infection. Symptoms of hepatotoxicity include nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, diarrhea, unusual tiredness or weakness, jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes), and unusual swelling or weight gain. Laboratory testing may show increased levels of liver enzymes in the blood.

See Also:     Liver Function Test

## Herpes Simplex Virus 1 (HSV-1)

A virus that causes cold sores or fever blisters on the mouth or around the eyes, and can be transmitted to the genital region.

The virus can become latent (inactive) and symptoms disappear. Stress, trauma, other infections, or suppression of the immune system can reactivate the latent virus and symptoms can return.

See Also: Herpesviruses

### **Herpes Simplex Virus 2 (HSV-2)**

A virus that causes painful sores around the anus or genitals. The virus can become latent (inactive) and symptoms then disappear until the virus is reactivated. HSV-2 may be transmitted either sexually or from an infected mother to her infant during birth.

### **Herpesviruses**

A family of viruses containing several individual members, including herpes simplex viruses 1 and 2 (HSV-1 and -2), cytomegalovirus (CMV), varicella zoster virus (VZV), Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), and Kaposi's sarcoma herpesvirus (KSHV or HHV-8). Each of these viruses can cause disease in humans.

### **Herpes Zoster**

See Varicella Zoster Virus

### **HGH**

See Human Growth Hormone

### **HHS**

See Department of Health and Human Services

### **Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART)**

The name given to treatment regimens that aggressively suppress HIV replication and progression of HIV disease. The usual HAART regimen combines three or more anti-HIV drugs.

### **Histoplasmosis**

A lung disease caused by the fungus *Histoplasma capsulatum*. Symptoms are similar to those of influenza. People with

severely damaged immune systems, such as those with AIDS, are vulnerable to a very serious form of the disease called progressive disseminated histoplasmosis. This form of histoplasmosis typically lasts a long time and involves other organs besides the lungs. Histoplasmosis is considered an AIDS-defining condition in people with HIV.

## **HIV**

See Human Immunodeficiency Virus

## **HIV-1**

The HIV type responsible for the majority of HIV infections worldwide.

See Also: HIV-2

Human Immunodeficiency Virus

## **HIV-2**

A virus closely related to HIV-1 that also causes immune suppression and AIDS. Although the two viruses are very similar, immunodeficiency seems to develop more slowly and to be milder in people infected with HIV-2. The majority of HIV-2 cases have been found in West Africa. Not all drugs used to treat HIV-1 infection are effective against HIV-2.

See Also: HIV-1

Human Immunodeficiency Virus

## **HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN)**

A worldwide clinical trials network established by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop and evaluate the safety and efficacy of non-vaccine HIV prevention methods designed to prevent the transmission of HIV.

## **HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN)**

An international group of scientists and educators that was formed in 1999 by the Division of AIDS of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). The main goal of HVTN is to find a safe and effective preventive HIV vaccine. HVTN staff and volunteers around the world are also

## **HIV/AIDS Glossary**

involved in helping community members understand the general science of HIV/AIDS vaccines, as well as research methods and clinical trials processes.

See Also: Preventive HIV Vaccine

### **Hodgkin's Lymphoma**

A type of cancer that affects certain white blood cells. Symptoms include enlarged lymph nodes, fever, night sweats, weight loss, and itching. This type of cancer most commonly affects people ages 15 to 40, people over 55, and people who are HIV infected. It is also known as Hodgkin's disease.

See Also: Lymphoma  
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

### **Horizontal Transmission**

A term used to describe transmission of a disease from one individual to another, except from parent to offspring. For example, HIV can be spread horizontally through sexual contact or exposure to infected blood. In contrast, spread of disease from parent to offspring is called vertical transmission.

See Also: Vertical Transmission

### **Hormone**

A chemical produced in one part of the body and passed through the blood to another part of the body to regulate its structure or function. HIV infection and AIDS can affect the production of hormones, causing imbalances in such hormones as estrogen and testosterone.

### **HPTN**

See HIV Prevention Trials Network

### **HPV**

See Human Papillomavirus

### **HRSA**

See Health Resources and Services Administration

**HSV-1**

See Herpes Simplex Virus 1

**HSV-2**

See Herpes Simplex Virus 2

**HTLV-I**

See Human T-Cell Lymphotropic Virus Type I

**Human Growth Hormone (HGH)**

A protein produced in the pituitary gland that stimulates the liver to produce somatomedins, substances that stimulate growth of bone and muscle. A laboratory-made version of HGH, called serostim, has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a treatment for AIDS wasting syndrome.

See Also:      Wasting Syndrome

**Human Herpesviruses**

See Herpesviruses

**Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)**

The virus that causes Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). HIV is in the retrovirus family, and two types have been identified: HIV-1 and HIV-2. HIV-1 is responsible for most HIV infections throughout the world, while HIV-2 is found primarily in West Africa.

See Also:      Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome  
Retrovirus

**Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA)**

Also known as major histocompatibility complex (MHC). Proteins found on the outside of almost every cell in the body that play an important role in controlling the immune system. The type of HLA proteins a person inherits from his or her parents is important in identifying good “matches” for tissue grafts and organ transplants. Some HLA types are also associated with either a faster or slower progression of HIV disease.

### **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)**

Viruses that cause various warts, including plantar and genital warts. Some strains of HPV can also cause cervical cancer.

See Also:      Cervical Cancer  
                 Genital Warts

### **Human T-Cell Lymphotropic Virus Type I (HTLV-I)**

A virus in the same family (retrovirus) as HIV. In rare cases, HTLV-1 can cause adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma, a rare and aggressive cancer of the blood. People infected with HTLV-1 may also develop myelopathy, a disease of the spinal cord.

See Also:      Retrovirus

### **Humoral Immunity**

Term used to describe the body's antibody-based immune response, as opposed to its cell-based immune response (cellular immunity). Immune cells called B cells produce antibodies against foreign invaders.

See Also:      Antibody  
                 B Lymphocytes  
                 Cell-Mediated Immunity

### **HVTN**

See HIV Vaccine Trials Network

### **Hyperadiposity**

See Lipohypertrophy

### **Hypergammaglobulinemia**

Higher than normal amounts of gamma globulins (antibodies) in the blood.

See Also:      Antibody

### **Hyperglycemia**

Higher than normal glucose (sugar) levels in the blood.

See Also:      Diabetes



**Hyperlipidemia**

Elevated concentration of lipids (cholesterol, triglycerides, or both) in the blood. Hyperlipidemia increases the risk of serious heart diseases. In HIV-infected individuals, hyperlipidemia may occur as a side effect of PI treatment.

**Hyperplasia**

An abnormal increase in the number of cells in a tissue or an organ.

**Hypogammaglobulinemia**

A deficiency of gamma globulins (antibodies) in the blood. This condition may occur in late stages of HIV disease when the immune system has been severely damaged.

See Also:     Antibody

**Hypogonadism**

Inadequate activity of the ovaries or testes. This can result in abnormally low levels of gonadal hormones (androgens and estrogens) and problems with sperm or egg production. Hypogonadism may occur in men and women with HIV disease.

**Hypoxia**

A condition in which not enough oxygen reaches the tissues of the body.



## **Idiopathic**

Without a known cause.

## **Idiopathic Thrombocytopenia Purpura (ITP)**

A rare autoimmune disorder characterized by a shortage of platelets in the blood, which results in bruising and spontaneous bleeding.

See Also: Platelets

## **IFN**

See Interferon

## **IG**

See Immunoglobulin

## **IHS**

See Indian Health Service

## **IL-2**

See Interleukin-2

## **IL-7**

See Interleukin-7

## **IM**

See Intramuscular

## **Immune Complex**

Term used to describe an antibody bound to an antigen.

See Also: Antibody  
Antigen

## **Immune Reconstitution Syndrome (IRS)**

Also known as immune restoration disease (IRD) or immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome (IRIS). An inflammatory reaction that can occur when an immunocompromised person's immune system improves, such as when a person with

## **HIV/AIDS Glossary**

HIV disease begins anti-HIV treatment and experiences a rise in CD4 cell count. Fever, along with swelling, redness, or discharge at the site of an injury or infection, may signal that an infection previously unnoticed by a weak immune system is now a target of a stronger immune system. Although IRS indicates that a person's immune system has grown healthier, it can be a serious, sometimes fatal condition and must be treated aggressively.

### **Immune Response**

The body's defensive reaction to a foreign invader, such as a virus, bacteria, or fungus. The immune response includes both humoral (antibody-based) and cell-mediated immunity.

See Also:      Cell-Mediated Immunity  
                    Humoral Immunity

### **Immune System**

The collection of cells and organs whose role is to protect the body from foreign invaders. Includes the thymus, spleen, lymph nodes, B and T cells, and antigen-presenting cells.

### **Immunity**

Protection against or resistance to disease.

### **Immunization**

See Vaccination

### **Immunocompetent**

Able to mount a normal immune response.

### **Immunocompromised**

Unable to mount a normal immune response because of an impaired immune system.

### **Immunodeficiency**

Inability to produce normal amounts of antibodies, immune cells, or both.

**Immunogenicity**

The ability of an antigen or vaccine to stimulate an immune response.

See Also:     Antigen  
               Vaccine

**Immunoglobulin (IG)**

See Antibody

**Immunologic Failure**

An HIV-infected individual is said to be experiencing immunologic failure if the individual's CD4 count decreases below his or her baseline count or does not increase above the baseline count within the first year of anti-HIV treatment.

People with virologic failure who do not switch to an effective drug regimen usually progress to immunologic failure within about 3 years. Immunologic failure may be followed by clinical failure.

See Also:     Baseline  
               Clinical Failure  
               Virologic Failure

**Immunomodulator**

A natural or man-made substance that can modify the functioning of the immune system.

**Immunosuppression**

Inability of the immune system to function normally. May be caused by drugs (for example, chemotherapy), or result from certain diseases (for example, HIV infection).

**Immunotherapy**

Treatment to stimulate or restore the body's immune system to fight disease.

### **Incidence**

The rate of occurrence of new cases of a particular disease in a given population. Often reported as number of cases per 100,000 people.

### **Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria**

A specific set of selection rules that determine whether a person is eligible to enroll in a particular clinical trial. For example, some trials may not accept people with chronic liver disease or with certain drug allergies. Others may exclude men or women, or only include people with a certain CD4 count or viral load.

See Also: Clinical Trial

### **Incubation Period**

The period between infection with a micro-organism and the development of symptoms.

See Also: Window Period

### **IND**

See Investigational New Drug Application

### **Indian Health Service (IHS)**

The agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) responsible for providing Federal health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

### **Infection**

Establishment of an infectious micro-organism in a suitable host. The term is also used to refer to disease caused by an infectious micro-organism.

### **Infectious**

Capable of causing infection.

**Informed Consent**

A person's agreement to participate in a clinical trial after understanding all aspects of the trial, including potential risks and benefits.

See Also: Clinical Trial

**Infusion**

Administration of a solution (such as a glucose or salt solution), usually into a vein.

**Inoculation**

See Vaccine

**Institutional Review Board (IRB)**

A committee of experts who review and monitor clinical trials to ensure that they are ethical and that the rights of study participants are protected. Federal regulations dictate that any institution that conducts or supports clinical trials must have an IRB.

**Insulin Resistance**

An abnormal body response to insulin, a hormone that regulates glucose (sugar) levels. People with insulin resistance have abnormally high blood levels of insulin, which may lead to heart and cholesterol problems and obesity. Insulin resistance may occur in HIV-infected individuals taking certain PIs.

**Integrase**

An HIV protein that plays an important role in the virus's life cycle. Integrase inserts HIV's genetic information into the infected cell's own DNA.

See Also: Integration

**Integrase Inhibitors**

A class of anti-HIV drugs that prevents the HIV integrase protein from inserting HIV's genetic information into an infected cell's own DNA.

See Also: Integrase

### **Integration**

The process by which HIV integrase inserts HIV's genetic material into an infected cell's own DNA. This crucial step in HIV's life cycle is targeted by the class of anti-HIV drugs called integrase inhibitors.

See Also:       Integrase  
                  Integrase Inhibitors

### **Intensification**

Adding additional anti-HIV drugs to an existing treatment regimen, usually because that regimen failed to adequately control HIV replication.

### **Interaction**

See Drug Interaction

### **Interferon (IFN)**

A cytokine (protein that regulates immune system activity) that the body produces to fight viruses. Laboratory-made versions of IFN are used in the treatment of some virus infections and cancers. There are three main types of interferon: alpha, beta, and gamma. IFN alpha is used to treat hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection and many cancers, including Kaposi's sarcoma.

See Also:       Cytokine  
                  Hepatitis C Virus  
                  Kaposi's Sarcoma

### **Interleukin-2 (IL-2)**

A cytokine (protein that regulates immune system activity) that can increase the production of certain disease-fighting white blood cells. During HIV infection, IL-2 levels gradually decline. A laboratory-made version of IL-2 is used to treat some cancers and has been studied as a way to increase the number of CD4 cells and other immune system cells in people with HIV.

### **Interleukin-7 (IL-7)**

A cytokine (protein that regulates immune system activity)



that increases the body's production of certain disease-fighting white blood cells. Laboratory-produced IL-7 is a drug product that appears to induce HIV replication in latent, or resting, infected cells. Activation of HIV in resting cells allows anti-retroviral drugs to target HIV in those cells.

### **Interstitial Nephritis**

A kidney disorder caused by inflammation of the small spaces between parts of the kidney. The condition is a potential side effect of certain anti-HIV drugs.

### **Intramuscular (IM)**

Relating to the area within a muscle. Intramuscular also refers to an injection made directly into a muscle.

### **Intrapartum**

The time period spanning labor and delivery.

### **Intravaginal**

Within the vagina.

### **Intravenous**

Inside a vein. Intravenous also refers to an injection made directly into a vein.

### **Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG)**

A solution of antibodies taken from healthy donors and injected into the veins of people with low or abnormal antibody production to help protect them from infections.

See Also:     Antibody

### **Investigational Drug**

Also known as experimental drug. A drug that has not been approved by the FDA to treat a particular disease or condition. The safety and effectiveness of an investigational drug must be tested in clinical trials before the manufacturer can request FDA approval for a specific use of the drug.

## **HIV/AIDS Glossary**

See Also:      Clinical Trial  
                    Investigational New Drug Application

### **Investigational New Drug Application (IND)**

The process through which data about an experimental drug is submitted to and reviewed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) before the drug is allowed to be tested in clinical trials.

See Also:      Clinical Trial  
                    New Drug Application

### **In Vitro**

Latin for “in glass.” A term meaning that a research study was conducted in an artificial environment created outside a living organism (for example, in a test tube or petri dish).

### **In Vivo**

Latin for “in life.” A term meaning that a research study was conducted in a living organism (animal or human).

### **IRB**

See Institutional Review Board

### **IRS**

See Immune Reconstitution Syndrome

### **Isosporiasis**

An infection caused by the protozoan *Isospora belli*, which enters the body through contaminated food or water. Symptoms include diarrhea, fever, headache, abdominal pain, vomiting, and weight loss. Isosporiasis is considered an AIDS-defining condition in people with HIV.

### **ITP**

See Idiopathic Thrombocytopenia Purpura

### **IVIG**

See Intravenous Immunoglobulin

**Jaundice**

Yellowing of the skin, mucous membranes, whites of the eyes, and body fluids. Jaundice is caused by raised levels of bilirubin and it is associated with liver and gallbladder disease.

See Also:      Bilirubin



**Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS)**

A type of cancer caused by an overgrowth of blood vessels, which causes pink or purple spots or small bumps on the skin. The condition can also occur inside the body, especially in the intestines, lymph nodes, and lungs. When inside the body, KS can be life threatening. In people infected with HIV, KS is considered an AIDS-defining condition. A virus called Kaposi's sarcoma herpesvirus (KSHV) or human herpesvirus 8 (HHV-8) is associated with Kaposi's sarcoma.

See Also: Kaposi's Sarcoma Herpesvirus

**Kaposi's Sarcoma Herpesvirus (KSHV)**

Also known as HHV-8. The virus associated with Kaposi's sarcoma (KS), a type of cancer that is considered an AIDS-defining condition in people with HIV.

See Also: Herpesviruses  
Kaposi's Sarcoma

**K****Karnofsky Score**

A score between 0 and 100 assigned by a health professional after watching a patient perform common tasks. A score of 100 means that the patient has normal physical abilities with no signs of disease. Decreasing numbers mean that the patient has less ability to perform activities of daily living.

**Killer T Cell**

See CD8 Cell

**KS**

See Kaposi's Sarcoma

**KSHV**

See Kaposi's Sarcoma Herpesvirus



**Lactic Acidosis**

A condition caused by a buildup of lactate, a cellular waste product, in the blood. Symptoms, if any, may include stomach and breathing problems and general weakness. Severe, untreated lactic acidosis can be life threatening. Increased lactate levels, often combined with hepatic steatosis, may occur in HIV-infected individuals taking NRTIs.

See Also:      Hepatic Steatosis

**LAS**

See Lymphadenopathy Syndrome

**Latency**

The time period when an infectious organism is in the body but is not producing any noticeable symptoms. In HIV disease, latency usually occurs in the early years of infection. Also refers to the period when HIV has integrated its genome into a cell's DNA but has not yet begun to replicate.

**Lentivirus**

A subgroup of the retrovirus family that includes HIV. Lentiviruses are characterized by a long time period between infection and the onset of symptoms.

See Also:      Incubation Period  
                 Retrovirus

**Lesion**

An area of the body where tissue is abnormal, such as an infected patch or sore on the skin.

**Leukocytes**

See White Blood Cells

**Leukocytosis**

An abnormally high number of white blood cells in the blood. This condition usually occurs during infection or inflammation.

See Also:      White Blood Cells

### **Leukopenia**

A lower than normal number of white blood cells.

### **Leukoplakia**

See Oral Hairy Leukoplakia

### **LGV**

See Lymphogranuloma Venereum

### **LIP**

See Lymphoid Interstitial Pneumonitis

### **Lipid**

Any member of a chemical group of fats or fat-like substances.

### **Lipid Profile**

A group of blood tests that are often ordered together to evaluate an individual's risk for heart disease or stroke. These tests include measurement of total cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol ("good" cholesterol), LDL-cholesterol ("bad" cholesterol), and triglycerides.

See Also:     Cholesterol  
                  Hyperlipidemia  
                  Triglycerides

### **Lipoatrophy**

Loss of body fat from particular areas of the body, especially the arms, legs, face, and buttocks. Lipoatrophy is a potential side effect of some NRTIs.

### **Lipodystrophy**

A problem with the way the body produces, uses, and distributes fat. Lipodystrophy is associated with certain anti-HIV drugs. HIV-related lipodystrophy includes the body changes known as "buffalo hump" and "protease paunch."



## Lipohypertrophy

Also known as hyperadiposity. Abnormal buildup of fat, particularly in the breasts, on the back of the neck and upper shoulders (“buffalo hump”), deep within the abdomen (“protease paunch”), or in fatty growths known as lipomas. Lipohypertrophy may occur with the use of some PIs and NRTIs.

See Also: Lipodystrophy

## Liver Function Tests

Blood tests that measure the levels of liver enzymes (proteins made and used by the liver) to determine if the liver is working properly. The liver enzymes that are routinely measured as part of liver function tests are aspartate aminotransferase (AST), alanine aminotransferase (ALT), gamma-glutamyltransferase (GGT), serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase (SGOT), and serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase (SGPT). Increased levels of these enzymes indicate that the liver has been damaged.

See Also: Hepatotoxicity

## Log

This mathematical term represents a change in value of what is being measured by a factor of 10. Changes in viral load (the amount of HIV in the blood) are often reported as logarithmic or “log” changes. For example, if the viral load is 20,000 copies/mL, then a 1-log increase equals a 10-fold (10 times) increase, or 200,000 copies/mL. A 2-log increase equals a 100-fold increase, or 2,000,000 copies/mL.

## Long-Term Nonprogressors

People who have been infected with HIV for a number of years (usually at least 7), but have had stable CD4 cell counts of 600 or more, no HIV-related diseases, and no need for anti-HIV therapy.

## Lumbar Puncture

See Spinal Tap

### **Lymph**

A clear, slightly yellow fluid that carries disease-fighting white blood cells from the blood to and from body tissues.

### **Lymph Nodes**

Very small organs of the immune system that are located throughout the body. Lymph fluid that bathes body tissues is filtered through lymph nodes as it carries white blood cells to and from the blood.

See Also:      Lymph  
                    Lymphadenopathy Syndrome

### **Lymphadenopathy Syndrome (LAS)**

Swollen, firm, and possibly tender lymph nodes. The causes range from infection such as HIV, the flu, or mononucleosis to lymphoma (cancer of the lymphoid tissue).

See Also:      Lymph Nodes

### **Lymphocyte**

A type of infection-fighting white blood cell found in the blood, lymph, and lymphoid tissue.

### **Lymphocyte Proliferation Assay**

A laboratory test that measures the ability of lymphocytes (infection-fighting white blood cells) to recognize an antigen and make more copies of themselves (proliferate) in response to the antigen encounter.

See Also:      Antigen

### **Lymphogranuloma Venereum (LGV)**

A sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by a species of the chlamydia bacterium. It is characterized by genital lesions and swelling of lymph nodes in the groin.

See Also:      Chlamydia

**Lymphoid Interstitial Pneumonitis (LIP)**

A lung disorder that causes hardening of the parts of the lung that aid in oxygen absorption. The cause of LIP is unknown, and there is no clear treatment. LIP is an AIDS-defining condition in HIV-infected children.

**Lymphokines**

Cytokines (chemical messengers that affect the immune response) secreted by white blood cells.

See Also: Cytokines

**Lymphoma**

Cancer of the lymphoid tissues. Some types of lymphomas, such as non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Hodgkin's disease, are associated with HIV infection.

**Lymphopenia**

A lower than normal number of white blood cells.

**Lymphoproliferative Response**

An immune system response that results in a rapid rise in the number of white blood cells.

**Lysis**

The destructive breaking apart of a cell.



**MAC**

See Mycobacterium Avium Complex

**Macrophage**

A type of disease-fighting white blood cell that destroys foreign invaders and stimulates other immune system cells to fight infection.

**MACS**

See Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study

**Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)**

A noninvasive technique that uses magnetic fields and radio waves instead of x-rays to produce 3-dimensional computerized images of the body's internal tissues and organs.

**Maintenance Therapy**

Also known as secondary prophylaxis. A treatment to prevent an infection from coming back after it has been brought under control.

**Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC)**

See Human Leukocyte Antigen

**Malabsorption Syndrome**

A condition that occurs when the intestines have problems absorbing nutrients. Malabsorption syndrome is associated with HIV infection and can cause loss of appetite, muscle pain, and weight loss.

See Also:      Wasting Syndrome

**Malaise**

A general feeling of discomfort or not feeling well.

**Malignant**

Referring to uncontrolled cell growth that may spread to other tissue, such as in cancer.

### **MDR-TB**

See Multiple Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis

### **Medication Event Monitoring System (MEMS)**

A method of measuring drug adherence that uses a computer chip embedded in a pill bottle lid to record the date and time each dose is taken. Current obstacles to its use include its large size, the possibility of malfunction when refrigerated, and inaccurate reporting when pillboxes are used in place of the original bottle.

See Also: Adherence

### **MedlinePlus**

A database of health information developed by the National Library of Medicine (NLM). MedlinePlus has information on several hundred diseases and conditions as well as other health information. <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/>

### **Memory T Cells**

A specific type of infection-fighting T cell that can recognize foreign invaders that were encountered during a prior infection or vaccination. At a second encounter with the invader, memory T cells can reproduce to mount a faster and stronger immune response than the first time the immune system responded to the invader.

See Also: T Cell

### **MEMS**

See Medication Event Monitoring System

### **Meningitis**

Inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain or spinal cord. Meningitis can be caused by a bacterium, fungus, or virus such as HIV.

### **Messenger RNA (mRNA)**

A molecule that carries genetic instructions for building a particular protein from the cell's DNA to the place in a cell where

proteins are assembled. There, the messenger RNA serves as a blueprint for the construction of a specific protein.

See Also:     Transcription  
                  Translation

## **Metabolic Syndrome**

Also known as Syndrome X. A cluster of disorders affecting the body's metabolism, including high blood pressure, high insulin levels, excess body weight, and abnormal cholesterol levels. Some anti-HIV drugs may cause or worsen these metabolic disorders.

## **Metabolism**

The chemical reactions that produce energy for the body.

## **MHC**

See Major Histocompatibility Complex

## **Microbes**

Living organisms that can be seen only through a microscope, including bacteria, protozoa, viruses, and fungi.

**M**

## **Microbicide**

A natural or man-made substance that kills microbes. Researchers are studying the use of microbicides to prevent the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV infection.

See Also:     Microbes

## **Microsporidiosis**

An infection of the intestines caused by a parasite. The infection can cause diarrhea and wasting (loss of weight and strength) in people with HIV.

## **Mitochondria**

Rod-like structures that produce energy for a cell.

### **Mitochondrial Toxicity**

A condition in which mitochondria are damaged. This condition is a potential side effect of NRTIs and can cause problems in the heart, nerves, muscles, pancreas, kidneys, and liver.

See Also: Mitochondria

### **Molluscum Contagiosum**

A disease of the skin and mucous membranes caused by a virus. The condition causes pearly white or flesh-colored bumps on the face, neck, underarms, hands, and genital region. In people with HIV, molluscum contagiosum can get worse with time and often becomes resistant to treatment.

### **Morbidity**

The rate of sickness or disease within a certain population.

### **Mortality**

The death rate, measured as the number of deaths within a certain population. The measure can apply to death from a particular disease or condition.

### **Mother-to-Child Transmission (MTCT)**

The passage of HIV from an HIV-infected mother to her infant. The infant may become infected while in the womb, during labor and delivery, or through breastfeeding.

### **MRI**

See Magnetic Resonance Imaging

### **mRNA**

See Messenger RNA

### **MTCT**

See Mother-to-Child Transmission

### **M-Tropic Virus**

See R5-Tropic Virus



**Mucocutaneous**

Relating to mucous membranes and the skin (for example, the mouth, lips, eyes, vagina, or anal area).

**Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS)**

An ongoing study of HIV infection in homosexual and bisexual men. The study is co-funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID); the National Cancer Institute (NCI); and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and is conducted at four clinical centers. Information about the natural history of HIV disease, the impact of treatment on disease progression, the role of genetic factors, and other long-term therapy issues are continually reported from study evaluations.

**Multiple Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB)**

A tuberculosis (TB) infection that does not respond to two or more standard anti-TB drugs. MDR-TB usually occurs when inadequate or improper treatment allows the bacteria that cause TB to continue multiplying and become drug resistant.

See Also: Tuberculosis

**M****Mutation**

A change or adaptation that can be passed down to future generations. Mutations can occur only when a virus is actively replicating, and not when anti-HIV drugs have suppressed the viral load to undetectable. If HIV replication is not well controlled, an individual's original HIV strain can adapt to infect different cell types or resist different anti-HIV drugs.

**Myalgia**

Muscle pain or tenderness that spreads throughout the body and is usually accompanied by a general feeling of discomfort or weakness.

**Mycobacterium Avium Complex (MAC)**

An infection caused by two bacteria found in soil and dust particles. The infection can be limited to a specific area or can

## **HIV/AIDS Glossary**

spread throughout the body. This life-threatening disease is extremely rare in people who are not infected with HIV, and MAC is considered an AIDS-defining condition in HIV-infected people.

### **Mycosis**

Any disease caused by a fungus.

### **Myelosuppression**

Decreased bone marrow function that results in reduced production of red blood cells, white blood cells, or platelets. Myelosuppression is a side effect of certain anti-HIV drugs.

### **Myopathy**

A disease of muscle tissue. Myopathy may be caused by certain anti-HIV drugs or as a consequence of HIV infection itself.

**Nadir**

The lowest level to which viral load (the amount of HIV in the blood) falls after a person starts anti-HIV treatment. Also refers to the lowest CD4 count a person reaches during HIV infection.

**National Cancer Institute (NCI)**

An institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the U.S. government's principal agency for cancer research and training. This institute provides health information and supports programs focusing on the causes, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer; rehabilitation from cancer; and the continuing care of cancer patients and the families of cancer patients. <http://www.nci.nih.gov>

**National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)**

An institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that conducts and funds research to better understand, treat, and prevent infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases. <http://www3.niaid.nih.gov>

**National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

A multi-institute agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). NIH conducts research in its own laboratories and funds research in universities, medical schools, hospitals, and other research institutions throughout the United States and abroad. <http://www.nih.gov>

**National Library of Medicine (NLM)**

An institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the world's largest medical library. NLM collects materials in all areas of biomedicine and health care and is involved in biomedical aspects of other fields such as technology and the social sciences. <http://www.nlm.nih.gov>

**National Prevention Information Network (NPIN)**

A national reference, referral, and distribution service for information on HIV/AIDS, other sexual transmitted diseases (STDs), and tuberculosis (TB), sponsored by the Centers for

## **HIV/AIDS Glossary**

Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

<http://www.cdcnpin.org>

### **Natural History Study**

A study designed to investigate the natural development of a disease or condition over time.

### **Natural Killer Cells (NK Cells)**

White blood cells that are able to kill tumor cells and cells infected with viruses or other foreign invaders.

### **NCI**

See National Cancer Institute

### **NDA**

See New Drug Application

### **Neonatal**

The time period from birth through the first 4 weeks after birth.

## **N**

### **Neoplasm**

Also called tumor. Any new, abnormal growth of tissue. Neoplasms may be benign (not cancerous) or malignant (cancerous).

### **Nephritis**

Inflammation of the kidney that can occur as a side effect of some anti-HIV drugs.

### **Nephrotoxic**

Toxic or destructive to the kidneys.

### **Neuralgia**

Sharp, shooting pain along a nerve pathway.

**Neuropathy**

A disorder that occurs when nerve cells are damaged. Symptoms range from a tingling sensation or numbness in the toes and fingers to paralysis. Neuropathy can occur as a result of HIV infection or as a side effect of certain anti-HIV drugs.

See Also:      Peripheral Neuropathy

**Neutropenia**

A lower than normal number of neutrophils (a type of white blood cell) in the blood. Moderate to severe neutropenia can increase the chance of developing bacterial infections. Neutropenia may occur as a result of HIV infection or as a side effect of some anti-HIV drugs.

See Also:      Neutrophil

**Neutrophil**

A type of white blood cell that can engulf and kill foreign invaders such as bacteria.

**New Drug Application (NDA)**

An application submitted by a drug manufacturer to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for a license to market and sell a particular drug in the United States. The drug manufacturer files an NDA after information from clinical trials is available for FDA review.

See Also:      Investigational New Drug Application

**NHL**

See Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

**NIAID**

See National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

**NIH**

See National Institutes of Health

## **HIV/AIDS Glossary**

### **NK Cells**

See Natural Killer Cells

### **NLM**

See National Library of Medicine

### **NNRTIs**

See Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors

### **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL)**

A cancer of lymphoid tissue that can affect the lymph nodes, spleen, bone marrow, and other organs of the immune system. This type of cancer typically develops in people with weakened immune systems, including organ transplant recipients and people with HIV or AIDS.

See Also:     Hodgkin's Lymphoma  
                  Lymphoma

### **Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors (NNRTIs)**

A class of anti-HIV drugs that bind to and disable HIV-1's reverse transcriptase enzyme, a protein that HIV needs to make more copies of itself. Without functional reverse transcriptase, HIV replication is halted. Current NNRTI medications are only effective against HIV-1 and not against HIV-2.

See Also:     Reverse Transcriptase

### **Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)**

A class of drugs that can reduce inflammation, swelling, stiffness, and joint pain. They are used to treat arthritis and mild to moderate pain. Some common NSAIDs are aspirin and ibuprofen.

### **NPIN**

See National Prevention Information Network

### **NSAIDs**

See Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs

## Nucleic Acid

Chemical structure that stores genetic information. There are two types of nucleic acid, DNA and RNA. Human genetic information is stored as DNA, while HIV's genetic information can be stored as both DNA and RNA.

See Also:     Deoxyribonucleic Acid  
                  Ribonucleic Acid

## Nucleic Acid Test

A laboratory test that can detect very small amounts of specific genetic material in blood, plasma, or other tissue. This test can detect several types of viruses and is used to screen blood from blood donors.

## Nucleoside

A precursor to a building block of DNA or RNA. Nucleosides must be chemically changed into nucleotides before they can be used to make DNA or RNA.

See Also:     Deoxyribonucleic Acid  
                  Nucleotide  
                  Ribonucleic Acid

## Nucleoside Analogue Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitor

A class of anti-HIV drug. Nucleoside analogues are faulty versions of the building blocks necessary for HIV reproduction. When HIV's reverse transcriptase enzyme uses a nucleoside analogue instead of a normal nucleoside, reproduction of the virus's genetic material is halted. Also called nucleoside analogues or "nukes."

See Also:     Nucleoside  
                  Reverse Transcriptase

## Nucleotide

A building block of DNA or RNA, the chemical structures that store genetic information.

See Also:     Deoxyribonucleic Acid  
                  Ribonucleic Acid

### **Nucleotide Analogue Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitor**

A class of anti-HIV drug. Nucleotide analogues are faulty versions of the building blocks necessary for HIV reproduction. When HIV's reverse transcriptase enzyme uses a nucleotide analogue instead of a normal nucleotide, reproduction of the virus's genetic material is halted. Although technically different from nucleoside analogues, nucleotide analogues work in the same way. Also called nucleotide analogues or "nukes."

See Also:      Nucleotide  
                 Reverse Transcriptase

### **Nucleus**

The part of a cell that contains the organism's genetic information.

### **Nukes**

Slang term for nucleoside/nucleotide reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs).

See Also:      Nucleoside Analogue Reverse Transcriptase  
                 Inhibitor  
                 Nucleotide Analogue Reverse Transcriptase  
                 Inhibitor



**OAR**

See Office of AIDS Research

**Office of AIDS Research (OAR)**

The office within the National Institutes of Health's (NIH's) National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) responsible for the scientific, budgetary, legislative, and policy elements of the NIH HIV/AIDS research program.

**Off-Label Use**

Prescribed use of a medication for a condition other than one approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), or for a patient population or at a dosage not approved by the FDA.

**OHL**

See Oral Hairy Leukoplakia

**OIs**

See Opportunistic Infections

**Open-Label Trial**

A clinical trial in which both the researchers and the participants know who is getting which drug or vaccine.

See Also: Double-Blind Study

**Opportunistic Infections (OIs)**

Illnesses caused by various organisms that occur in people with weakened immune systems, including people with HIV/AIDS. OIs common in people with AIDS include *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia; cryptosporidiosis; histoplasmosis; toxoplasmosis; other parasitic, viral, and fungal infections; and some types of cancers.

**Oral Hairy Leukoplakia (OHL)**

A white-colored, hairy, or ribbed patch that appears on the side of the tongue and inside the cheeks. It develops mainly in people with weakened immune systems, including people

## **HIV/AIDS Glossary**

with HIV. It is caused by Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), a member of the herpesvirus family.

### **Osteonecrosis**

Also referred to as avascular necrosis. A medical condition in which bone tissue dies. Osteonecrosis affects some people with HIV, but it is unclear if it develops as a complication of HIV infection or as a side effect of anti-HIV drugs.

See Also:      Avascular Necrosis

### **Osteopenia**

A medical condition in which bones lose their minerals and become less dense, making them weaker and easier to break.

### **Osteoporosis**

Severe loss of bone mass, density, and strength. Although usually an age-related disorder, osteoporosis may also occur as a result of HIV infection or as a side effect of anti-HIV drugs.

**p24**

An HIV protein that makes up the virus core that surrounds HIV's genetic material.

See Also:      Core

**Package Insert**

Also known as prescribing information or product label. A document prepared by the manufacturer of a drug and approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to describe approved uses, dosages, contraindications, and potential side effects of the drug. This information is inserted inside each manufactured drug bottle and attached to any promotional or labeling materials.

**PACTG**

See Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group

**Palliative Care**

Medical care that helps to alleviate symptoms of chronic illnesses without offering a cure. Palliative care offers therapies to comfort and support patients with terminal illnesses.

**Pancreas**

A gland located near the stomach that secretes digestive fluids that help to break down fats, proteins, and carbohydrates. The pancreas also secretes the hormones insulin and glucagon, which help to stabilize blood sugar.

**P****Pancreatitis**

Inflammation of the pancreas that can cause severe pain. Laboratory tests that indicate pancreatitis include increased blood levels of triglycerides and the pancreatic enzyme amylase.

See Also:      Pancreas

**Pancytopenia**

A lower than normal number of all types of blood cells, including red and white blood cells and platelets.

### **Pandemic**

An outbreak of an infectious disease, such as HIV, that affects people or animals over an extensive geographical area. Also known as a global epidemic.

See Also:      Epidemic

### **Papilloma**

A tumor that grows on the skin, such as a wart or polyp. Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the virus that causes papillomas, including genital warts.

See Also:      Genital Warts  
                 Human Papillomavirus

### **Pap Smear**

A method for the early detection of cancer and other abnormalities of the female genital tract. A Pap smear is done by placing a speculum in the vagina, locating the cervix, and then scraping a thin layer of cells from the cervix. The cells are placed on a slide, sent to a laboratory, and analyzed for abnormalities. HIV-infected women often have abnormal results of Pap smear tests, usually as a result of human papillomavirus (HPV) infection.

See Also:      Cervical Cancer  
                 Human Papillomavirus

## **P**

### **Parasite**

An organism that lives and feeds on or within another living organism and causes some degree of harm. Immunocompromised people, such as those infected with HIV, are more likely to develop parasitic infections such as *Pneumocystis jiroveci* pneumonia (PCP) and toxoplasmosis.

### **Parenteral**

Any route into the body other than through the digestive system. For example, through the veins (intravenous), into the muscles (intramuscular), or through the skin (subcutaneous).

**Paresthesia**

Abnormal sensations such as burning, tingling, or a “pins-and-needles” feeling that occur without external stimulation. Paresthesia can occur as a symptom of peripheral neuropathy or as a side effect of certain anti-HIV drugs.

See Also      Peripheral Neuropathy

**Passive Immunity**

The body’s ability to prevent or fight a specific infection after receiving antibodies from another person. The most common example of passive immunity is when an infant receives the mother’s antibodies by consuming her breast milk.

See Also:      Antibody

**Passive Immunotherapy**

The transfer of antibodies from one person to another to help the recipient fight infection. An example of passive immunotherapy is the use of plasma donated by healthy HIV-infected people who have high CD4 counts and high levels of anti-HIV antibodies. The plasma is administered to people with AIDS who have lost CD4 cells and can no longer make their own antibodies. Passive immunotherapy has been used with limited success in treating advanced HIV disease in adults, but it is still sometimes used in HIV-infected children.

See Also:      Passive Immunity

**Pathogen**

General term for any disease-causing organism.

**Pathogenesis**

General term for the origin and development of disease.

**PBMC**

See Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cell

**PCP**

See Pneumocystis Jiroveci Pneumonia

### **PCR**

See Polymerase Chain Reaction

### **Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group (PACTG)**

A large clinical trials network that evaluates treatments for HIV-infected children and adolescents and that develops new therapeutic approaches for preventing mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV.

### **Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)**

An infection of the upper female genital tract affecting the uterus, fallopian tubes, and ovaries. It is usually caused by the bacteria responsible for two common sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), gonorrhea and chlamydia. If left untreated, PID can cause severe pain, tubal pregnancy, and infertility. Severe cases may even spread to the liver and kidneys, causing dangerous internal bleeding and death.

### **People Living With AIDS (PLWA)**

Infants, children, adolescents, and adults infected with HIV/AIDS.

### **PEP**

See Post-Exposure Prophylaxis

## **P**

### **Peptide**

A short chain of amino acids that are chemically linked to one another. Longer chains of amino acids are referred to as polypeptides.

See Also:      Amino Acids  
                    Polypeptide

### **Perianal**

Around the anus.

### **Perinatal**

The time period spanning shortly before and after birth.

**Perinatal Transmission**

The passage of HIV from an HIV-infected mother to her infant. The infant may become infected while in the womb, during labor and delivery, or through breastfeeding.

**Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cell (PBMC)**

A general term for white blood cells containing one nucleus, particularly lymphocytes and macrophages.

See Also:     Lymphocyte  
                  Macrophage

**Peripheral Neuropathy**

Condition characterized by sensory loss, pain, muscle weakness, and wasting of muscle in the hands, legs, or feet. It may start with burning or tingling sensations or numbness in the toes and fingers. In severe cases, paralysis may occur. Peripheral neuropathy may result from HIV infection itself or may be a side effect of certain anti-HIV drugs, particularly NRTIs.

See Also:     Neuropathy

**Persistent Generalized Lymphadenopathy (PGL)**

Chronic and persistent swollen lymph nodes in at least two areas of the body for at least three months. PGL occurs in people with persistent bacterial, viral, or fungal infections, and in individuals with weakened immune systems, including people with HIV.

**PGL**

See Persistent Generalized Lymphadenopathy

**Pharmacokinetics**

The interaction of a drug with the body over a period of time. General pharmacokinetic processes are absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion. These processes are usually measured through blood and urine samples.

### Pharmacology

The branch of medical science that studies the chemistry, effects, and uses of drugs. Pharmacology includes the study of a drug's therapeutic value, toxicology, and interaction with the body (pharmacokinetics).

See Also: Pharmacokinetics

### Phase I Trials

Initial clinical studies of new drugs or other therapies in small groups of healthy volunteers, usually 20 to 80 people. This phase of clinical trial determines initial drug safety and side effects.

### Phase II Trials

Early clinical studies that evaluate the safety and effectiveness of new drugs or other therapies. Phase II trials also help determine short-term side effects and risks associated with new drugs. This trial phase usually recruits no more than 100 people affected with the disease or condition under study.

### Phase III Trials

Clinical studies that compare the effectiveness of new drugs to standard therapies for the disease or condition in question. This trial phase recruits a large population of people with the disease or condition under study, ranging from several hundred to several thousand volunteers. The results of these trials are used to evaluate the overall risks and benefits of the drug and provide the information needed for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to consider approving the drug.

### Phase IV Trials

Clinical studies that occur after a drug has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to determine long-term safety and effectiveness. They are sometimes referred to as "post-marketing studies." This trial phase recruits the largest population of patients to gain additional information about the drug's risks, benefits, and optimal use.



**Phenotypic Assay**

A laboratory test that determines by direct experiment whether a particular strain of HIV is resistant to anti-HIV drugs. This is different from a genotypic assay, which uses an indirect method to find out if a particular strain of HIV has specific genetic mutations that are associated with drug resistance.

See Also:      Genotypic Assay  
                 Resistance Testing

**Photosensitivity**

Increased sensitivity of skin to sunlight or ultraviolet light. Photosensitivity commonly causes reddening and blistering of the skin and in time increases a person's risk of skin cancer. Photosensitivity may occur as a side effect of some drugs or as a result of HIV infection.

**PHS**

See Public Health Service

**PID**

See Pelvic Inflammatory Disease

**Pill Burden**

The number and schedule of pills taken each day in a particular anti-HIV drug regimen. A high pill burden may lead to decreased treatment adherence because of the difficulty of taking a large number of pills properly.

See Also:      Adherence

**PIs**

See Protease Inhibitors

**Placebo**

Sometimes called a "sugar pill." A pill or other treatment that looks like the treatment being tested in a clinical trial but does not actually contain the active ingredient. Placebos are used in

some clinical trials to control for what is called the “placebo effect”: an effect that is caused by the power of suggestion alone. The effects of the placebo are then compared to the effects of the active ingredient to determine if the ingredient is truly effective.

See Also:      Placebo Effect

### **Placebo-Controlled Study**

A study that identifies the true effect of a treatment by comparing results in patients taking the actual treatment to those in patients taking an inactive look-alike, or placebo, treatment.

See Also:      Placebo Effect

### **Placebo Effect**

A positive or negative response to an inactive treatment (placebo) caused by a patient’s or researcher’s expectations that a particular treatment will have an effect.

See Also:      Placebo  
                 Placebo-Controlled Study

### **Plasma**

The clear, liquid part of the blood in which red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets are suspended. Plasma contains nutrients, wastes, salts, gases, and proteins.

## **P**

### **Platelets**

A type of cell in the blood responsible for clotting. When blood vessels are damaged, platelets help to form a plug that prevents the loss of blood.

### **PLWA**

See People Living With AIDS

### **PML**

See Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy

**Pneumocystis Jiroveci**

A type of fungus that can cause severe pneumonia in humans, particularly in people with weakened immune systems and especially common in people with AIDS. *P. jiroveci* is related to *P. carinii*, the species for which PCP (pneumocystis carinii pneumonia) was originally named.

See Also: Pneumocystis Jiroveci Pneumonia

**Pneumocystis Jiroveci Pneumonia (PCP)**

A lung infection caused by *Pneumocystis jiroveci*, a fungus related to *Pneumocystis carinii* (the species for which PCP was originally named). PCP occurs in people with weakened immune systems, including people with HIV. It is considered an AIDS-defining condition in HIV-infected individuals. The first signs of infection are difficulty breathing, high fever, and dry cough.

See Also: Pneumocystis Jiroveci

**Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)**

A laboratory technique that rapidly replicates tiny amounts of DNA so that it can be detected and measured.

See Also: Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction

**Polyneuritis**

Inflammation of several nerves at the same time.

**Polypeptide**

A long chain of amino acids that are chemically linked to one another. Shorter chains of amino acids are referred to as peptides.

See Also: Amino Acids  
Peptide

**Polyvalent Vaccine**

A vaccine that combines multiple antigens. This type of vaccine may produce a stronger immune response or may provide protection from multiple strains of an infectious organism.

## **HIV/AIDS Glossary**

See Also:     Antigen  
                  Vaccine

### **Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)**

Administration of anti-HIV drugs within 72 hours of a high-risk exposure, including unprotected sex, needle sharing, or occupational needle stick injury, to help prevent development of HIV infection.

See Also:     Prophylaxis

### **Postnatal**

The time period following birth (refers to the newborn).

See Also:     Postpartum  
                  Prenatal

### **Postpartum**

The time period after childbirth (refers to the mother).

See Also:     Antepartum  
                  Postnatal

### **PPD**

See Purified Protein Derivative

### **Preclinical**

Refers to the preliminary testing of investigational drugs in laboratory animals that occurs before human testing may begin.

### **Pre-Conception Counseling**

A specific type of health care recommended by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology for all women of child-bearing age prior to pregnancy. Its purpose is to identify risks of pregnancy and childbirth for both mother and child, to provide education and counseling targeted to a woman's individual needs, and to treat or stabilize medical conditions prior to pregnancy in order to optimize the mother's and infant's health.

## **Prenatal**

Period of time spanning conception to the beginning of labor.

## **Prescribing Information**

See Package Insert

## **Prevalence**

The number of people in a population affected with a particular disease or condition at a given time. Prevalence can be thought of as a snapshot of all existing cases of a disease or condition at a specified time.

See Also: Incidence

## **Preventive HIV Vaccine**

A vaccine designed to prevent HIV infection in people who are HIV negative. Preventive HIV vaccines are not designed to treat those already infected with HIV.

See Also: Therapeutic HIV Vaccine

## **Primary HIV Infection**

See Acute HIV Infection

## **Primary Isolates**

Strains of HIV taken from an infected individual, as opposed to strains grown in the laboratory.

## **Proctitis**

Inflammation of the lining of the rectum.

## **Product Label**

See Package Insert

## **Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy (PML)**

A rare brain and spinal cord disease caused by a virus and usually seen only in immunocompromised individuals, such as those with HIV. Symptoms vary, but include loss of muscle control, paralysis, blindness, speech problems, and an altered

mental state. This disease often progresses rapidly and may be fatal. PML is considered an AIDS-defining condition in people with HIV.

### Prophylaxis

Treatment to prevent the onset of a particular disease or to prevent recurrence of symptoms of an existing infection that has been brought under control.

### Protease

An enzyme that breaks down long polypeptides into smaller protein units. HIV's protease enzyme cuts long chains of HIV polypeptide into the smaller, active proteins used in HIV replication.

See Also: Polypeptide

### Protease Inhibitors (PIs)

A class of anti-HIV drug that prevents replication of HIV by disabling HIV protease. Without HIV protease, the virus cannot make more copies of itself.

See Also: Protease

### Protease-Sparing Regimen

An anti-HIV drug regimen that does not include a PI.

See Also: Protease Inhibitors

### Proteins

Highly complex biological molecules consisting of specific combinations of amino acids linked together by chemical bonds. Proteins are required for the structure, function, and regulation of the body's cells, tissues, and organs, and each protein has unique functions. Examples of proteins are enzymes, cytokines, antibodies, and the major components of hair, skin, and muscle.

See Also: Amino Acids

Peptide

Polypeptide

## Protocol

The detailed plan for conducting an experiment such as a clinical trial. A clinical trial protocol is a lengthy document describing the trial's rationale, purpose, information about the drug or vaccine under study, participant inclusion/exclusion criteria, study endpoints, and details of the trial design.

See Also:      Clinical Trial  
                    Endpoint  
                    Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

## Protozoa

Large, diverse group of unicellular (one-celled) animals. Some protozoa cause diseases in people with weakened immune systems, including people with HIV or AIDS. Protozoa are responsible for some of the AIDS-defining opportunistic infections, notably toxoplasmosis and cryptosporidiosis.

## Provirus

A DNA version of HIV's genetic material that has been integrated into the host cell's own DNA.

See Also:      Integration

## Pruritus

An intense itching sensation that produces the urge to rub or scratch the skin for relief.

## Public Health Service (PHS)

An office within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Public Health Service is composed of several agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which oversee different aspects of health care in the United States. Guidelines for the management of various diseases, including HIV infection, are released through the PHS.

## PubMed

Database and search engine that provides access to citations for more than 11 million biomedical articles dating back to the

## **HIV/AIDS Glossary**

1950s. The database is maintained by the National Library of Medicine (NLM). PubMed includes links to free full-text articles, where they are available, and also connects users with related resources. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez>

### **Pulmonary**

Pertaining to the lungs.

### **Purified Protein Derivative (PPD)**

A substance used in the tuberculin skin test to determine if a person has been exposed to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacterium that causes tuberculosis (TB). PPD is usually injected just below the skin. A hard red bump or a swollen area at the injection site indicates that the person was exposed to the bacterium. Additional tests are required to determine if the person has active TB infection.

See Also:      Tuberculin Skin Test  
                 Tuberculosis



**q.d.**

Once a day dosing instructions.

**q.i.d.**

Four times a day dosing instructions.



**R5-Tropic Virus**

Also known as M-tropic virus. A strain of HIV that uses the chemokine receptor CCR5 as a co-receptor to bind to and infect human cells. HIV is usually R5 tropic early on in infection, but the virus can switch to using a different co-receptor as the disease progresses.

See Also: CCR5  
Co-Receptor  
X4-Tropic Virus

**Randomized Trial**

A type of clinical trial in which participants are assigned by chance to one of two or more treatment or placebo groups. A randomized trial design helps researchers gather meaningful information and make valid statistical calculations.

See Also: Clinical Trial  
Placebo

**Rapid Test**

A type of HIV-1 ELISA test that can detect antibodies to HIV in the blood in less than 30 minutes with greater than 99% sensitivity and specificity. A positive rapid test result should be confirmed by an HIV Western blot test.

See Also: Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay  
Western Blot

**Rebound**

See Viral Rebound

**Receptor**

A protein on the surface of a cell that serves as a binding site for substances outside the cell, such as HIV floating free in the blood.

See Also: CD4 Receptor  
Co-Receptor

### **Recombinant**

Produced by genetic engineering. Also refers to a new organism or compound produced by inserting the genetic material of one organism into the genetic material of another organism.

See Also: Genetic Engineering

### **Refractory**

Refers to a disease or condition that has gotten worse despite treatment.

### **Remission**

The period during which symptoms of a disease diminish or disappear. In people infected with HIV, effective treatment regimens may result in the remission of HIV-associated symptoms and conditions.

### **Renal**

Pertaining to the kidneys.

### **Rescue Therapy**

See Salvage Therapy

### **Resistance**

See Drug Resistance

### **Resistance Testing**

A laboratory test to determine if an individual's HIV strain is resistant to any anti-HIV drugs.

See Also: Drug Resistance  
Genotypic Assay  
Phenotypic Assay

### **Retinal Detachment**

Separation of the retina from the inner wall of the eye. Retinal detachment can be a complication of cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis and can cause vision loss.

See Also: Cytomegalovirus Retinitis

## Retinitis

Inflammation of the retina, the thin layer of tissue that lines the inside back wall of the eye and functions like the film of a camera. In people with HIV, retinitis can be caused by cytomegalovirus (CMV). If untreated, retinitis can lead to blindness. Symptoms include floating spots, flashing lights, blind spots, and blurred vision.

See Also:     Cytomegalovirus  
                  Cytomegalovirus Retinitis

## Retrovirus

A type of virus that stores its genetic information in a single-stranded RNA molecule, then constructs a double-stranded DNA version of its genes using a special enzyme called reverse transcriptase. The DNA copy is then integrated into the host cell's own genetic material. HIV is an example of a retrovirus.

See Also:     Integration  
                  Provirus  
                  Reverse Transcriptase

## Reverse Transcriptase (RT)

An enzyme found in HIV and other retroviruses. RT converts single-stranded HIV RNA into double-stranded HIV DNA. Some anti-HIV drugs interfere with this stage of HIV's life cycle.

See Also:     Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase  
                  Inhibitors  
                  Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors  
                  Provirus  
                  Retrovirus

## Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)

A laboratory test that measures the amount of HIV RNA (also known as viral load) in a blood sample by replicating HIV's genetic material to measurable levels. RT-PCR is the primary

## **HIV/AIDS Glossary**

way that health care providers monitor HIV infection and its treatment.

See Also:     Polymerase Chain Reaction  
                 Viral Load

### **Ribonucleic Acid (RNA)**

Chemical structure that carries genetic instructions for protein synthesis. Although DNA is the primary genetic material of cells, RNA is the genetic material for some viruses.

See Also:     Deoxyribonucleic Acid  
                 Messenger RNA

### **RNA**

See Ribonucleic Acid

### **RT**

See Reverse Transcriptase

### **RT-PCR**

See Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction

### **Ryan White Care Act**

The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act is Federal legislation that addresses unmet health needs of people living with HIV/AIDS by funding primary health care and support services that enhance access to and retention in care. The CARE Act is administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

See Also:     Health Resources and Services Administration

**Salmonella Septicemia**

Salmonella is a bacterium that enters the body through ingestion of contaminated food or water. Symptoms of infection include nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Salmonella septicemia is a severe infection that circulates through the whole body. Recurrent Salmonella septicemia is considered an AIDS-defining condition in people with HIV.

**Salvage Therapy**

Also known as rescue therapy. An HIV treatment regimen designed for people who have used many different anti-HIV drugs in the past, have failed at least two anti-HIV regimens, and have extensive drug resistance.

**SAMHSA**

See Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

**SAT**

See Subcutaneous Adipose Tissue

**SC**

See Subcutaneous

**Seborrheic Dermatitis**

A skin condition common in people with HIV. It is characterized by loose, greasy or dry, white to yellowish scales, with or without reddened skin. Seborrheic dermatitis may involve the skin of the scalp, eyebrows, eyelids, nasolabial creases, lips, behind the ears, in the external ear, and on the trunk, particularly over the sternum and along skin folds. The cause is unknown.

**Secondary Prophylaxis**

See Maintenance Therapy

### **Sepsis**

A serious blood-borne infection that is usually caused by bacteria. Immunocompromised people, such as those with HIV disease, are at increased risk for sepsis.

### **Seroconversion**

The process by which a newly infected person develops antibodies to HIV. These antibodies are then detectable by an HIV test. Seroconversion may occur anywhere from days to weeks or months following HIV infection.

See Also: Window Period

### **Serologic Test**

A laboratory test to determine if an individual has antibodies to a particular foreign invader, such as a virus. A positive serologic test indicates that an individual is infected or has had an infection in the past.

### **Seroprevalence**

The number or proportion of people in a given population who have positive serologic tests for a particular infection.

### **Serum**

The clear, thin, and sticky fluid that separates from blood when it clots.

### **Serum Glutamic Oxaloacetic Transaminase (SGOT)**

See Liver Function Tests

### **Serum Glutamic Pyruvate Transaminase (SGPT)**

See Liver Function Tests

### **Set Point**

The viral load established within a few weeks to months after infection, after the initial burst of virus replication has subsided. The viral set point is thought to remain steady for an indefinite period of time if the infection is not treated with anti-HIV drugs. An individual's viral set point may determine



how quickly HIV infection will progress without treatment. Higher set points suggest that disease will progress faster than lower set points.

### **Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD)**

Any infection spread by the transmission of organisms from person to person during sexual contact.

### **SGOT**

See Serum Glutamic Oxaloacetic Transaminase

### **SGPT**

See Serum Glutamic Pyruvate Transaminase

### **Shingles**

A disease caused by varicella zoster virus (VZV), which also causes chickenpox. VZV remains in the nerve roots of everyone who has had chickenpox and can become active years later to cause shingles. Shingles causes numbness, itching, or severe pain followed by clusters of blister-like lesions in a strip-like pattern on one side of the body. The pain can persist for weeks, months, or years after the rash heals.

See Also:      Varicella Zoster Virus

### **Side Effects**

The actions or effects of a drug (or vaccine) other than desired therapeutic effects. The term usually refers to undesired or negative effects, such as headache, skin irritation, or liver damage.

### **Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV)**

A virus similar to HIV that can infect monkeys, chimpanzees, and macaques and can cause a disease similar to AIDS in some of these animals. Because the two viruses are closely related, researchers study SIV as a way to learn more about HIV. However, SIV cannot infect humans, and HIV cannot infect monkeys.

**SIT**

See Structured Intermittent Therapy

**SIV**

See Simian Immunodeficiency Virus

**SJS**

See Stevens-Johnson Syndrome

**Spinal Tap**

Also known as lumbar puncture. A procedure in which cerebrospinal fluid from the lower spine is extracted with a needle for examination.

**Splenomegaly**

Enlargement of the spleen.

**Sputum Analysis**

Method of detecting certain infections (especially tuberculosis) by analyzing sputum, the mucus matter that collects in the respiratory and upper digestive passages and is expelled by coughing.

**Standard of Care**

A treatment plan that experts agree is appropriate, accepted, and widely used for a given disease or condition.

**Statins**

A shortened name for a class of cholesterol-lowering drugs called HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors. Drugs in this class lower cholesterol by slowing down the body's production of cholesterol and by increasing the liver's ability to remove cholesterol from the blood.

See Also: Cholesterol

**STD**

See Sexually Transmitted Disease

**Stem Cell**

A “generic” cell that can make exact copies of itself indefinitely, but can also produce specialized cells for various tissues in the body, such as heart muscle, brain tissue, and liver tissue.

**Steroid**

A general class of substances that are structurally related to one another and share the same chemical skeleton. Some hormones and drugs are steroids. For example, natural testosterone and its man-made derivatives help build muscle mass. Corticosteroid drugs are used to reduce swelling and pain.

**Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS)**

A severe and sometimes fatal form of skin rash characterized by red, blistered spots on the skin; blisters in the mouth, eyes, genitals, or other moist areas of the body; peeling skin that results in painful sores; and fever, headache, and other flu-like symptoms. Internal organs may also be affected. SJS may occur as a severe reaction to certain medications, including NNRTIs used to treat HIV infection.

**STI**

See Structured Treatment Interruption

**Stomatitis**

Inflammation or irritation of the mucous membranes in the mouth.

**Structured Intermittent Therapy (SIT)**

A type of structured treatment interruption that is characterized by time-based treatment cycles (weeks or months on and off anti-HIV drugs).

See Also:      Structured Treatment Interruption

**Structured Treatment Interruption (STI)**

Also known as a “drug holiday.” A planned, doctor-supervised discontinuation of anti-HIV drugs. Goals of STI include reduced toxicity, reduced treatment costs, and improved quality of life.

### **Subclinical Infection**

An infection or phase of an infection without obvious symptoms or signs of disease.

### **Subcutaneous (SC)**

Beneath the skin, or administration of a substance beneath the skin.

### **Subcutaneous Adipose Tissue (SAT)**

A type of adipose (fat) tissue found directly under the skin. Both loss (lipoatrophy) and gain (lipohypertrophy) of this fat tissue can occur as a side effect of HIV infection and some of the drugs used to treat HIV infection, especially PIs and NRTIs.

See Also:      Visceral Adipose Tissue

### **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**

The lead agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for improving the quality and availability of substance abuse prevention, addiction treatment, and mental health services in the United States.

### **Subtype**

HIV is classified into two types, HIV-1 and HIV-2. Within HIV-1 are groups of similar viral strains. These are the major (M) subtype and non-M (new [N] and outlier [O]) subtypes. The majority of HIV-1 infections are by M-subtype viral strains. Subtype M HIV-1 is further broken down into nine genetically distinct strains known as clades.

See Also:      Clade

### **Subunit HIV Vaccine**

Also known as component vaccine. Subunit vaccines contain only part of the HIV virus (such as individual proteins or peptides) produced in the laboratory by genetic engineering techniques.

See Also: Genetic Engineering  
Vaccine

**Superinfection**

A new infection acquired on top of an existing infection. For example, a person infected with one strain of HIV-1 can, if exposed to a different strain, become infected with the new strain in addition to the existing strain. Superinfection can complicate HIV treatment by requiring additional drugs to target the newly introduced HIV strain.

**Surrogate Endpoint**

See Clinical Endpoint

**Susceptible**

Having little resistance to a specific infectious disease. Also used to describe an HIV strain that is not resistant to a particular anti-HIV drug.

**Syncytium**

A giant cell formed by the fusing together of two or more smaller cells. HIV-infected cells can fuse with uninfected cells to form syncytia. The presence of so-called syncytia-inducing variants of HIV has been correlated with rapid disease progression in HIV-infected individuals.

**Syndrome**

A set of symptoms or conditions that occur together and suggest a certain disease or an increased chance of developing a disease.

**Syndrome X**

See Metabolic Syndrome

**Synergy**

An interaction between two or more drugs that produces an effect greater than the sum of their individual effects.

### **Syphilis**

A sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*. In the early stage of syphilis, a genital or mouth sore called a chancre develops, but eventually disappears on its own. However, if the disease is not treated, the infection can progress over years to affect the heart and central nervous system. Syphilis can also be transmitted from an infected mother to her fetus during pregnancy, with serious health consequences for the infant.

### **Systemic**

A term used to describe a disease or treatment that affects the body as a whole.

**TAMs**

See Thymidine Analogue Mutations

**Tanner Staging**

A method for determining an adolescent's stage of sexual development, irrespective of chronological age. In HIV treatment, Tanner staging is used to determine the appropriate treatment guidelines to follow: adult, adolescent, or pediatric.

**TAT**

See Total Adipose Tissue

**TB**

See Tuberculosis

**T Cell**

A type of lymphocyte (disease-fighting white blood cell). The "T" stands for the thymus, where T cells mature. T cells include CD4 cells and CD8 cells, which are both critical components of the body's immune system.

See Also:     CD4 Cell  
                  CD8 Cell  
                  Lymphocyte

**TDM**

See Therapeutic Drug Monitoring

**TEN**

See Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis

**Teratogenic**

Causing harm to a fetus by interfering with normal prenatal development. Many drugs, including some anti-HIV drugs, are teratogenic when taken by pregnant women.

### **Testosterone**

A hormone necessary for normal male sexual development and functioning and also important in maintaining muscle strength and mass. Testosterone is sometimes used for the treatment of HIV-related wasting syndrome and to increase muscle mass and decrease body fat in people with HIV. Testosterone replacement therapy is also used to raise testosterone levels in people with HIV-related hypogonadism.

See Also:      Hypogonadism  
                  Wasting Syndrome

### **Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM)**

Measurement of anti-HIV drug levels in an individual's blood. These measurements are then used to make appropriate adjustments to the dosage of the drug. TDM may help improve the drug's effect and reduce side effects by keeping the blood level in a specific target range. TDM is mainly used for drugs in which small changes in drug levels cause large changes in drug effect.

See Also:      Therapeutic Index

### **Therapeutic HIV Vaccine**

Any HIV vaccine used for the treatment of an HIV-infected person. Therapeutic HIV vaccines are designed to boost an individual's immune response to HIV infection in order to better control the virus. This therapeutic approach is currently being tested in clinical trials.

See Also:      Preventive HIV Vaccine

### **Therapeutic Index (TI)**

A measure of a drug's ability to achieve the desired effect in an individual. Many anti-HIV drugs have a narrow TI, meaning that small changes in levels of the drug may produce big effects. Doses of these drugs are sometimes adjusted using therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM).

See Also:      Therapeutic Drug Monitoring



**Thrombocytopenia**

A lower than normal number of blood platelets (cells important for blood clotting).

See Also: Platelets

**Thrush**

See Candidiasis

**Thymidine Analogue Mutations (TAMs)**

Mutations in HIV's reverse transcriptase (RT) enzyme that can occur with the use of the NRTIs zidovudine and stavudine. TAMs make HIV resistant to these drugs and may limit a person's treatment options.

See Also: Nucleoside Analogue Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitor  
Reverse Transcriptase

**Thymus**

An organ in the chest behind the breastbone. This organ is an essential part of the immune system because it is the site where infection-fighting T cells develop.

See Also: T Cell

**Ti**

See Therapeutic Index

**t.i.d.**

Three times a day dosing instructions.

**Titer**

A laboratory measurement of the amount of a given compound in solution. For example, an antibody titer is the measurement of the amount of a particular antibody in a sample of blood.

**T Lymphocytes**

See T Cell

### Tolerability

Term used to indicate how well a particular medication is tolerated or endured when taken by people at the usual dosage. Good tolerability means that medication side effects don't cause people to stop using the drug.

### Tolerance

A decreasing response to repeated doses of a drug, requiring a dose increase to continue the effects of the drug.

### Total Adipose Tissue (TAT)

Adipose (fat) tissue is primarily located under the skin (subcutaneous adipose tissue), but also found around internal organs (visceral adipose tissue). Together, these two types of fat tissue are called total adipose tissue. Lipodystrophy, or changes in body fat, are a potential side effect of some anti-HIV drugs, especially PIs and NRTIs.

See Also:      Lipodystrophy  
                    Subcutaneous Adipose Tissue  
                    Visceral Adipose Tissue

### Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN)

A severe form of Stevens-Johnson syndrome involving at least 30% of the total body skin area.

See Also:      Stevens-Johnson Syndrome

### Toxicity

Ability to poison or otherwise harm the body.

### Toxoplasmosis

An infection caused by the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*. The parasite is carried by cats, birds, and other animals, and is also found in soil contaminated by cat feces and in meat, particularly pork. Infection can occur in the lungs, retina of the eye, heart, pancreas, liver, colon, testes, and brain. Toxoplasmosis of the brain is considered an AIDS-defining condition in people with HIV.

## Transcription

One of the steps in the HIV life cycle. Transcription is the process by which the HIV DNA provirus is used as a template to create copies of HIV's RNA genetic material, as well as shorter strands of HIV RNA called messenger RNA (mRNA). HIV mRNA is then used in a process called translation to create HIV proteins and continue the virus's life cycle.

See Also:     Messenger RNA  
                  Provirus  
                  Translation

## Translation

The step in the HIV life cycle that follows transcription. Translation is the process by which the genetic information contained in HIV mRNA is used to build HIV proteins using the host cell's protein-making machinery. Once these HIV proteins are produced, they can combine with copies of HIV's RNA genetic material to form new, complete copies of HIV.

See Also:     Transcription

## Transplacental

Across or through the placenta. Usually refers to the exchange of nutrients, waste products, and other materials (for example, drugs or infectious organisms) between the mother and the fetus.

## Treatment Failure

A broad term describing failure of an anti-HIV treatment to adequately control HIV infection. The three types of HIV treatment failure are virologic, immunologic, and clinical failure. Factors contributing to treatment failure include poor adherence, drug resistance, and drug toxicity.

See Also:     Clinical Failure  
                  Immunologic Failure  
                  Virologic Failure

### **Treatment-Experienced**

A term used to describe HIV-infected individuals who are currently being treated with anti-HIV drugs or who have taken anti-HIV drugs in the past.

See Also: Treatment-Naive

### **Treatment-Naive**

A term used to describe HIV-infected individuals who have never taken anti-HIV drugs.

See Also: Treatment-Experienced

### **Triglycerides**

Fat-like substances that help transfer energy from food into cells. Triglyceride levels that are too high increase the risk of heart disease and have been associated with diabetes and pancreatitis. Elevated triglyceride levels are a potential side effect of some PIs.

### **Trough Level**

See CMIN

### **T Tropic Virus**

See X4-Tropic Virus

### **Tuberculin Skin Test**

A test performed by injecting purified protein derivative (PPD) extract under the skin. A person who receives this test must return to his or her health care provider after 48 to 72 hours so that the skin's reaction can be evaluated. A hard red bump or a swollen area at the injection site indicates that the person has been exposed to the bacterium that causes tuberculosis (TB). Additional tests are required to determine if the person has active TB infection.

See Also: Purified Protein Derivative  
Tuberculosis

**Tuberculosis (TB)**

An infection caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. TB bacteria are spread through the air when a person with active TB coughs, sneezes, or speaks. Breathing in the bacteria can lead to infection in the air sacs of the lungs.

Symptoms of TB in the lungs include cough, tiredness, weight loss, fever, and night sweats. Although the disease usually occurs in the lungs, it may also affect the larynx, lymph nodes, brain, kidneys, or bones. A person with both TB and HIV is more likely to develop tuberculosis disease than a person infected only with the TB bacterium, and TB is considered an AIDS-defining condition in people with HIV.

See Also:      Tuberculin Skin Test



**UD VL**

See Undetectable Viral Load

**Undetectable Viral Load (UD VL)**

The point at which levels of HIV RNA in the blood are too low to be detected with a viral load test. This does NOT mean that the virus has stopped replicating or has been removed from the body entirely, only that the small amount of virus remaining is below the test's ability to measure it. The viral load below which a test cannot detect the virus depends on the brand of the viral load test.

See Also:      Viral Load





**Vaccination**

Administration of a vaccine for either preventive or therapeutic purposes.

See Also: Preventive HIV Vaccine  
Therapeutic HIV Vaccine  
Vaccine

**Vaccine**

A substance that stimulates the body's immune response in order to prevent or control an infection. A vaccine is typically made up of some part of a bacteria or virus that cannot itself cause an infection. Researchers are testing vaccines both to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS; however, there is currently no vaccine approved for use outside of clinical trials.

See Also: Preventive HIV Vaccine  
Therapeutic HIV Vaccine

**Vaccinia**

A cowpox virus that is used as a vaccine against smallpox infection and as a vector, or carrier, for other types of vaccine. In HIV vaccine clinical trials, vaccinia and other herpesviruses have been used as vectors.

See Also: Herpesviruses  
Vector

**Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV)**

A virus in the herpes family that causes chicken pox (usually during childhood) and may reactivate later in life to cause shingles.

See Also: Herpesviruses  
Shingles

**VAT**

See Visceral Adipose Tissue

### **Vector**

A harmless virus or bacteria used as a vaccine carrier to deliver pieces of a disease-causing organism (such as HIV) into the body's cells in order to stimulate a protective immune response.

See Also: Vaccine

### **Vertical Transmission**

A term used to describe the transmission of a disease from parent(s) to offspring. For example, HIV can be spread vertically from mother to child during pregnancy, at birth, or through breastfeeding.

See Also: Horizontal Transmission  
Mother-to-Child Transmission

### **Viral Load (VL)**

The amount of HIV RNA in a blood sample, reported as number of HIV RNA copies per mL of blood plasma. The VL provides information about the number of cells infected with HIV and is an important indicator of HIV progression and how well treatment is working. The VL can be measured by different techniques, including branched chain DNA (bDNA) and reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assays. VL tests are usually done when an individual is diagnosed with HIV infection and at regular intervals after diagnosis.

See Also: Branched Chain DNA Assay  
Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction

### **Viral Load Test**

Test that measures the quantity of HIV RNA in the blood. Results are reported as the number of copies of HIV RNA per mL of blood plasma. The two types of HIV viral load test are reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and branched chain DNA (bDNA).

See Also: Branched Chain DNA Assay  
Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction  
Viral Load

**Viral Rebound**

Reappearance of HIV in the blood after having been successfully suppressed to undetectable levels following anti-HIV drug treatment.

See Also:      Undetectable Viral Load  
                    Virologic Failure

**Viremia**

The presence of virus in the bloodstream.

**Viricide**

Any substance that can destroy or inactivate a virus.

**Virion**

A mature virus particle existing freely outside a host cell.

**Virologic Failure**

Inability of anti-HIV drug treatment to reduce viral load or to maintain suppression of viral load. Virologic failure is the most common type of treatment failure and may lead to immunologic and clinical failure.

See Also:      Clinical Failure  
                    Immunologic Failure  
                    Viral Load

**Virology**

The study of viruses and viral disease.

**Virus**

A microscopic organism that requires a host cell to make more copies of itself. Examples of human diseases caused by virus infections are AIDS, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, influenza, and the common cold.

**Visceral Adipose Tissue (VAT)**

A type of adipose (fat) tissue that surrounds internal organs in the abdominal cavity. Accumulation of this fat is known as

## **HIV/AIDS Glossary**

central fat deposition or visceral lipohypertrophy, and may occur as a side effect of some anti-HIV medications, especially PIs and NRTIs.

See Also: Subcutaneous Adipose Tissue

### **VL**

See Viral Load

### **VZV**

See Varicella Zoster Virus

## Wasting Syndrome

The involuntary loss of more than 10 percent of body weight, plus more than 30 days of either diarrhea or weakness and fever. Wasting refers to the loss of muscle mass, although part of the weight loss may also be due to loss of fat. HIV-associated wasting syndrome is considered an AIDS-defining condition.

## Western Blot

A laboratory technique used to detect a specific protein. A Western blot test to detect HIV proteins in the blood is used to confirm a positive HIV antibody test (ELISA).

See Also: Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay

## White Blood Cells

Also known as leukocytes. These cells make up the immune system and include lymphocytes, monocytes, neutrophils, eosinophils, macrophages, and mast cells. White blood cells are made by bone marrow and help the body fight infection and other diseases.

## WIHS

See Women's Interagency HIV Study

## Wild-Type Virus

A term to describe virus strains (including strains of HIV) that have not acquired any genetic mutations that create special characteristics, such as resistance to particular drugs.

## Window Period

The time period between a person's infection with HIV and the appearance of detectable anti-HIV antibodies. Because antibodies to HIV take some time to form, an HIV antibody test will not be positive immediately after a person is infected. The time delay typically ranges from 14 to 21 days, but varies for different people. Nearly everyone infected with HIV will have detectable antibodies by 3 months after infection.

See Also: Antibody

Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay

### **Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS)**

A multicenter study established in 1993 to research the impact of HIV infection in women. The study's ultimate goal is to gain a better understanding of and provide adequate support for women who are currently HIV infected or who are at risk for HIV infection. The study is jointly supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## **X4-Tropic Virus**

Also known as T-tropic virus. A strain of HIV that uses the chemokine receptor CXCR4 as a co-receptor to bind to and infect human immune cells. Although some HIV-1 strains are X4 tropic from the beginning of infection, it is more common for the virus to switch to using the CXCR4 co-receptor as the disease progresses.

See Also:      Co-Receptor  
                 CXCR4  
                 R5-Tropic Virus





**Yeast Infection**

See Candidiasis



## Table of Contents

### Federal Resources

AIDSinfo .....	143
CDC-INFO (formerly the CDC National AIDS Hotline) .....	143
CDC National Prevention Information Network (CDC NPIN) .....	144
ClinicalTrials.gov .....	145
Health Hotlines .....	146
MedlinePlus .....	147
National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) .....	147
National Center for Health Statistics .....	148
National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) .....	149
Office of Minority Health Resource Center .....	150
The Directory of Information Resources Online (DIRLINE) .....	150

### Non-Federal Resources

AIDSMAP .....	151
American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM) .....	151
Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry .....	152
HIV InSite .....	153
International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care (IAPAC) .....	154
Johns Hopkins AIDS Service .....	154

## **Additional Resources**

Kaiser Family Foundation .....	155
Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago .....	155
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) .....	156
Perinatal Hotline (for health care providers only) .....	157
The National Clinician's Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Hotline (PEPLINE) (for health care providers only) .....	157
Tufts School of Medicine .....	158
Warmline (for health care providers only) .....	158
Women, Children, and HIV— Resources for Prevention and Treatment .....	159

## Federal Resources

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### **AIDSinfo**

A service of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
P.O. Box 6303  
Rockville, MD 20849-6303

<b>Description</b>	AIDSinfo offers quick access to federally approved HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention guidelines, clinical trials, and related information for both consumers and health care providers.
<b>Toll-Free Help Line</b>	800-448-0440
<b>International Callers</b>	301-519-0459
<b>TTY/TDD</b>	888-480-3739
<b>Fax</b>	301-519-6616
<b>Spanish</b>	Yes
<b>E-mail</b>	ContactUs@idsinfo.nih.gov
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.aidsinfo.nih.gov/">http://www.aidsinfo.nih.gov/</a>
<b>Live Help Online</b>	<a href="https://webcontact.aspensys.com/AidsInfo/intro.jsp">https://webcontact.aspensys.com/AidsInfo/intro.jsp</a>
<b>Hours</b>	Monday-Friday, noon-5 p.m. e.s.t.

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### **CDC-INFO (formerly the CDC National AIDS Hotline)**

P.O. Box 13827  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

<b>Description</b>	CDC-INFO offers anonymous, confidential HIV/AIDS information to the American
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## Additional Resources

public. Trained staff answer questions about HIV infection and AIDS in English and Spanish and provide TTY service for the deaf. They provide referrals to appropriate services, including clinics, hospitals, local hotlines, counseling and testing sites, legal services, health departments, support groups, educational organizations, and service agencies throughout the United States. Callers can also order publications, posters, and other informational materials.

<b>Toll-Free</b>	800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)
<b>TTY</b>	888-232-6348
<b>Spanish</b>	Yes
<b>E-mail</b>	cdcinfo@cdc.gov
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/hivinfo/nah.htm">http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/hivinfo/nah.htm</a>
<b>Hours</b>	24 hours/7 days

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### CDC National Prevention Information Network (CDC NPIN)

A service of the CDC National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHSTP)  
P.O. Box 6003  
Rockville, MD 20849-6003

<b>Description</b>	The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) NPIN is a national reference, referral, and distribution service for information about HIV/AIDS, STDs, and TB prevention, treatment, and support services. NPIN staff serve a diverse network of people who work in international, national, State, and local settings.
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<b>Toll-Free</b>	800-458-5231
<b>International Callers</b>	919-361-4892
<b>TTY</b>	800-243-7012
<b>International TTY</b>	919-361-4884
<b>Fax</b>	888-282-7681
<b>Spanish</b>	Yes
<b>E-mail</b>	info@cdcnpin.org
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.cdcnpin.org/">http://www.cdcnpin.org/</a>
<b>Live Help Hours</b>	Monday–Friday, 2–4 p.m. e.s.t.
<b>Business Hours</b>	Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–6 p.m. e.s.t.

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## ClinicalTrials.gov

A service of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)  
 Developed by the National Library of Medicine (NLM)  
 8600 Rockville Pike  
 Bethesda, MD 20894

**Description** ClinicalTrials.gov provides patients, family members, health care professionals, and other members of the public easy access to information on clinical trials for a wide range of diseases and conditions, including HIV infection. The Web site provides information about a trial's purpose, who may participate, study site locations, and contact information.

**Toll-Free** 888-FINDNLM (888-346-3656)

## Additional Resources

<b>International Callers</b>	301-594-5983
<b>Fax</b>	301-402-1384
<b>E-mail</b>	custserv@nlm.nih.gov
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/">http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/</a>

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## Health Hotlines

Sponsored by the National Library of Medicine (NLM)  
 6707 Democracy Boulevard  
 Suite 510  
 Bethesda, MD 20892

<b>Description</b>	Health Hotlines is a listing of organizations with toll-free telephone numbers derived from the NLM's Directory of Information Resources Online (DIRLINE). The organizations included in Health Hotlines provide health-related information and services related to AIDS, cancer, maternal and child health, aging, substance abuse, disabilities, mental health, and more. To assist Spanish speakers, each entry includes the organization name in Spanish and English. The Health Hotline entries also show whether the organizations offer resources in Spanish.
<b>Phone</b>	301-496-3147
<b>Fax</b>	301-480-3537
<b>E-mail</b>	HealthHotlines@nih.gov
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://healthhotlines.nlm.nih.gov/">http://healthhotlines.nlm.nih.gov/</a>



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**MedlinePlus**

A service of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)  
Developed by the National Library of Medicine (NLM)  
8600 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20894

<b>Description</b>	MedlinePlus provides online information to help answer health questions. This Web site combines authoritative information from NLM, NIH, other government agencies, and health-related organizations. MedlinePlus has extensive information about drugs, an illustrated medical encyclopedia, interactive patient tutorials, and breaking health news.
<b>Toll-Free</b>	888-FINDNLM (888-346-3656)
<b>International Callers</b>	301-594-5983
<b>Fax</b>	301-402-1384
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:custserv@nlm.nih.gov">custserv@nlm.nih.gov</a>
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.medlineplus.gov">http://www.medlineplus.gov</a>

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**National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM)**

National Institutes of Health  
P.O. Box 7923  
Gaithersburg, MD 20898

<b>Description</b>	NCCAM is one of the 27 institutes and centers that make up the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NCCAM supports scientific research on complementary and alternative medical (CAM) practices, trains scientists and
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## Additional Resources

researchers, and disseminates information to health care providers and the public. The NCCAM Web site features health information, details about CAM research and training opportunities, and Live Help, an online chat service.

<b>Toll-Free</b>	888-644-6226
<b>International Caller</b>	301-519-3153
<b>TTY</b>	866-464-3615
<b>Fax</b>	866-464-3616
<b>E-mail</b>	info@nccam.nih.gov
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.nccam.nih.gov/">http://www.nccam.nih.gov/</a>
<b>Live Help Online</b>	<a href="http://www.nccaminfo.org/livehelp/">http://www.nccaminfo.org/livehelp/</a>
<b>Hours</b>	Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. e.s.t.

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## National Center for Health Statistics

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

3311 Toledo Road  
Hyattsville, MD 20782

<b>Description</b>	The National Center for Health Statistics compiles statistical information to guide actions and policies to improve the health of Americans. The National Center for Health Statistics' Web site is an excellent source of information about HIV/AIDS in America. It provides statistics on new AIDS cases, hospital discharges and length of stays, and death
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rates. For data inquiries, contact the toll-free number listed below.

<b>Toll-Free</b>	866-441-NCHS (866-441-6247)
<b>Phone</b>	301-458-4000
<b>E-mail</b>	nchsquery@cdc.gov
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/aids-hiv.htm">http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/aids-hiv.htm</a>

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### National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)

National Institutes of Health  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20892-2190

<b>Description</b>	The NIDCR is one of the 27 institutes and centers that make up the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NIDCR Web site provides information regarding oral (mouth) problems related to HIV infection and explains the most common oral problems associated with HIV. The site also features photographs that show what various conditions look like. Contact NIDCR's National Oral Health Information Clearinghouse for information about oral, dental, and craniofacial health at the number below.
<b>Phone</b>	301-402-7364
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:nidcrinfo@mail.nih.gov">nidcrinfo@mail.nih.gov</a>
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/HealthInformation/DiseasesAndConditions/HivAids/">http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/HealthInformation/DiseasesAndConditions/HivAids/</a>

## Additional Resources

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### Office of Minority Health Resource Center

<b>Description</b>	The Office of Minority Health (OMH) is the Department of Health and Human Services agency that focuses on improving and protecting the health of racial and ethnic minority populations. OMH operates the OMH Resource Center (OMHRC), which serves as an information and referral service on minority health issues for professionals, community groups, consumers, and students. The staff also offer technical assistance to small community-based HIV/AIDS organizations and HIV/AIDS service organizations.
<b>Toll-Free</b>	800-444-6472
<b>Spanish</b>	Yes
<b>Fax</b>	301-251-2160
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="http://info@omhrc.gov">http://info@omhrc.gov</a>
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.omhrc.gov/">http://www.omhrc.gov/</a>
<b>Hours</b>	Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–5 p.m. e.s.t.

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### The Directory of Information Resources Online (DIRLINE)

National Library of Medicine (NLM)

Specialized Information Services

<b>Description</b>	DIRLINE is an online directory of more than 8,000 health-related organizations willing to respond to public inquiries in their specialty areas.
<b>Phone</b>	301-496-1131 or 301-496-3147
<b>Fax</b>	301-480-3537

**E-mail**      [tehip@tehl.nlm.nih.gov](mailto:tehip@tehl.nlm.nih.gov)  
**Web**          <http://dirline.nlm.nih.gov/>

## Non-Federal Resources

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### AIDSMAP

Sponsored by NAM  
Lincoln House  
1 Brixton Road  
London  
SW9 6DE  
UK

**Description**      On the AIDSMAP Web site you can find daily news on developments in the world of HIV. The site includes comprehensive, searchable databases of HIV treatment and care information and HIV organization listings for more than 175 countries. The “Key Guides to HIV” page gives you an overview of [aidsmap.com](http://aidsmap.com) resources in 30 key topic areas.

**Phone**            +44-0-20-7840-0050  
**Fax**                +44-0-20-7735-5351  
**E-mail**            [info@nam.org.uk](mailto:info@nam.org.uk)  
**Web**                <http://www.aidsmap.com/>

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### American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM)

1705 DeSales Street NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036

**Description**      The AAHIVM is a membership organization of health care providers dedicated to

**Additional Resources**

promoting excellence in HIV/AIDS care. The Web site offers patient resources, including a free searchable database of HIV specialists throughout the country.

<b>Toll-Free</b>	866-241-9601
<b>Phone</b>	202-659-0699
<b>Fax</b>	202-659-0976
<b>E-mail</b>	info@aahivm.org
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://aahivm.org/">http://aahivm.org/</a>
<b>Hours</b>	Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. e.s.t.

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**Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry**

Research Park  
1011 Ashes Drive  
Wilmington, NC 28405

<b>Description</b>	The Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry was established to evaluate exposures to antiretroviral medications during pregnancy and to estimate the prevalence of major birth defects. The registry is designed to provide an early warning signal of teratogenicity and to assist clinicians and patients in weighing potential risks and benefits of HIV treatment during pregnancy.
<b>Toll-Free</b>	United States, Canada: 800-258-4263 (Voice mail available after business hours); United Kingdom, Germany, France (toll-free): 00800-5913-1359; other European countries: +32-2-714-5028

<b>Fax</b>	United States: 800-800-1052; United Kingdom, Germany, France (toll-free): 00800-5812-1658; other European countries: +32-2-714-5024
<b>Multilingual</b>	The Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry call center in Brussels has multilingual capability.
<b>E-mail</b>	registry@nc.crl.com
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.apregistry.com/">http://www.apregistry.com/</a>
<b>Hours</b>	United States, Canada: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.– 6 p.m. e.s.t.

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## **HIV InSite**

University of California San Francisco (UCSF)  
 Center for HIV Information (CHI)  
 4150 Clement Street, Building 16  
 VAMC 111V–UCSF  
 San Francisco, CA 94121

<b>Description</b>	HIV InSite's Web site includes the HIV InSite Knowledge Base section, a complete online textbook with extensive references and related links organized by topic. This database also contains details on drug interactions. The site provides free, anonymous access to all of its content.
<b>Fax</b>	415-379-5547
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:info@hivinsite.ucsf.edu">info@hivinsite.ucsf.edu</a>
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/InSite">http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/InSite</a>

## Additional Resources

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### International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care (IAPAC)

33 North LaSalle Street

Suite 1700

Chicago, IL 60602-2601

<b>Description</b>	IAPAC provides educational services to its membership on best clinical practices in managing HIV and its associated complications. IAPAC offers the Global AIDS Learning and Evaluation Network (GALEN), a medical training and certification initiative for physicians who treat HIV in the developing world.
<b>Phone</b>	312-795-4930
<b>Fax</b>	312-795-4938
<b>E-mail</b>	iapac@iapac.org
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.iapac.org/">http://www.iapac.org/</a>

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### Johns Hopkins AIDS Service

<b>Description</b>	This Web site of the Johns Hopkins AIDS Service is a resource for physicians and other health care professionals who provide care and treatment to people living with HIV. The site features an excellent multimedia presentation on the HIV Life Cycle, an AIDS knowledge test, "Expert Q & A" pages for both clinicians and patients, a Literary Corner, and the ABX Guide to Antibiotics.
<b>Fax</b>	410-502-7915
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:feedback@hopkins-aids.edu">feedback@hopkins-aids.edu</a>
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.hopkins-aids.edu/">http://www.hopkins-aids.edu/</a>



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**Kaiser Family Foundation**

2400 Sand Hill Road  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
or  
1330 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005

<b>Description</b>	The Kaiser Family Foundation Web site publishes The Kaiser Daily HIV/AIDS Report, which summarizes news stories as well as linking to the original articles. The Kaiser Daily HIV/AIDS Report covers legislative, political, legal, scientific, and business developments in HIV/AIDS. Issues include Medicare reform, Medicaid, patients' rights, access, the uninsured, minority health, children's health, and health care advertising.
<b>Phone</b>	(CA) 650-854-9400; (DC) 202-347-5270
<b>Fax</b>	(CA) 650-854-4800; (DC) 202-347-7302
<b>E-mail</b>	info@kaisernetwork.org
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.kff.org/hivaids/">http://www.kff.org/hivaids/</a>

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**Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago**

5700 South Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, IL 60637-2093

<b>Description</b>	The Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, Illinois, created an online exhibit called "AIDS: The War Within." Using colorful illustrations and short, easy-to-read text, the exhibit shows the nine-stage progression of HIV infection on the cellular level.
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## Additional Resources

<b>Phone</b>	773-684-1414
<b>E-mail</b>	msi@msichicago.org
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.msichicago.org/exhibit/AIDS/">http://www.msichicago.org/exhibit/AIDS/</a>
<b>Hours</b>	<a href="http://www.msichicago.org/info/vtm/hours.html">http://www.msichicago.org/info/vtm/hours.html</a>

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### National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)

444 North Capitol Street NW  
Suite 339  
Washington, DC 20001

**Description** NASTAD is a nonprofit national association of State health department HIV/AIDS program directors who are responsible for administering HIV/AIDS health care, prevention, education, and supportive services programs funded by State and Federal governments. The NASTAD Web site provides online access to health department contact information through its State HIV Program Directory, which includes information for the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Islands.

<b>Phone</b>	202-434-8090
<b>Fax</b>	202-434-8092
<b>E-mail</b>	nastad@nastad.org
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.nastad.org/res_state_directory.asp">http://www.nastad.org/res_state_directory.asp</a>

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**Perinatal Hotline (for health care providers only)**

University of California San Francisco (UCSF)  
P.O. Box 1365  
San Francisco, CA 94143-1365

<b>Description</b>	The National Perinatal HIV Consultation and Referral Service (Perinatal Hotline) provides free 24-hour clinical consultation and advice for treating HIV-infected pregnant women and their infants. Staff will also discuss indications for and interpretations of rapid and standard HIV testing in pregnancy.
<b>Toll-Free</b>	888-448-8765
<b>Fax</b>	415-476-3454
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.ucsf.edu/hivcntr/Hotlines/Perinatal.html">http://www.ucsf.edu/hivcntr/Hotlines/Perinatal.html</a>
<b>Hours</b>	24 hours/7 days

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**The National Clinician's Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Hotline (PEPLINE) (for health care providers only)**

University of California San Francisco (UCSF)  
P.O. Box 1365  
San Francisco, CA 94143-1365

<b>Description</b>	PEPLINE offers treating clinicians up-to-the-minute advice on managing occupational exposures to HIV, hepatitis viruses, and other blood-borne pathogens. Emergency calls made during evening, weekend, and holiday hours are forwarded to on-call clinicians. Nonemergency calls will be returned during business hours.
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## **Additional Resources**

<b>Toll-Free</b>	888-448-4911
<b>Fax</b>	415-476-3454
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.ucsf.edu/hivcntr/Hotlines/PEPLine.html">http://www.ucsf.edu/hivcntr/Hotlines/PEPLine.html</a>
<b>Hours</b>	24 hours/7 days

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## **Tufts School of Medicine**

Nutrition and HIV Research

150 Harrison Ave

Jaharis 2

Boston, MA 02111

<b>Description</b>	This Web site focuses on the role of good nutrition in living with HIV/AIDS. Information about good nutrition, lipodystrophy, unintentional weight loss (wasting) or gain, nausea, fatigue, and food and water safety are just a few of the diverse topics this site covers.
<b>Phone</b>	617-636-3811
<b>Fax</b>	617-636-3810
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:med-nutrition-infection@tufts.edu">med-nutrition-infection@tufts.edu</a>
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.tufts.edu/med/nutrition-infection/hiv/">http://www.tufts.edu/med/nutrition-infection/hiv/</a>

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## **Warmline (for health care providers only)**

University of California San Francisco (UCSF)

P.O. Box 1365

San Francisco, CA 94143-1365

<b>Description</b>	The National HIV Telephone Consultation Service (Warmline) offers physicians and other health care providers up-to-the-minute HIV clinical information and individualized expert case consultation across the broad range of clinical HIV/AIDS problems. The Warmline is a free service staffed by clinicians experienced in HIV care.
<b>Toll-Free</b>	800-993-3413 (Voice mail available 24 hours/7 days)
<b>Fax</b>	415-476-3454
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.ucsf.edu/hivcntr/Hotlines/Warmline.html">http://www.ucsf.edu/hivcntr/Hotlines/Warmline.html</a>
<b>Hours</b>	Monday–Friday, 6 a.m.–5 p.m. p.s.t.

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### Women, Children, and HIV—Resources for Prevention and Treatment

Sponsored by The François-Xavier Bagnoud Center (FXBC) of the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ)

and

The Center for HIV Information  
University of California San Francisco (UCSF)  
School of Medicine

<b>Description</b>	This Web site provides resources on the prevention and treatment of HIV infection in women and children for health workers, program managers, and policy makers in resource-poor settings. This FXBC program—
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**Additional Resources**

- Disseminates state-of-the-art clinical information and training resources on mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV and related topics.
- Communicates the best practices in preventing mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV and caring for infected children.
- Disseminates PMTCT program resource materials.
- Disseminates state-of-the-art clinical information and training resources on perinatally acquired pediatric HIV infection.
- Implements services responsive to the needs of the CDC Global AIDS Program (CDC/GAP).

<b>Spanish</b>	Yes
<b>Phone</b>	973-972-0410
<b>Fax</b>	973-972-0399
<b>E-mail</b>	Editor@WomenChildrenHiv.org
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.womenchildrenhiv.org/">http://www.womenchildrenhiv.org/</a>

## A

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<b>AACTG</b>	Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Group
<b>ADAPs</b>	AIDS Drug Assistance Programs
<b>ADC</b>	AIDS Dementia Complex
<b>ADR</b>	Adverse Drug Reaction
<b>AETCs</b>	AIDS Education and Training Centers
<b>AHRQ</b>	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
<b>AIEDRP</b>	Acute HIV Infection and Early Diseases Research Program
<b>ALT</b>	Alanine Transaminase
<b>APC</b>	Antigen-Presenting Cell
<b>ARC</b>	AIDS-Related Complex
<b>ARS</b>	Acute Retroviral Syndrome
<b>ART</b>	Antiretroviral Therapy
<b>ARV</b>	Antiretroviral
<b>ASO</b>	AIDS Service Organization
<b>AST</b>	Aspartate Aminotransferase
<b>AUC</b>	Area Under the Curve
<b>AVN</b>	Avascular Necrosis

## B

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<b>B2M</b>	Beta-2 Microglobulin
<b>bDNA</b>	Branched Chain DNA Assay
<b>BRMs</b>	Biological Response Modifiers

**Abbreviations**

**C**

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<b>CAM</b>	Complementary and Alternative Medicine
<b>CBC</b>	Complete Blood Count
<b>CBO</b>	Community-Based Organization
<b>CDC</b>	Centers For Disease Control and Prevention
<b>CIN</b>	Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia
<b>CIPD</b>	Chronic Idiopathic Demyelinating Polyneuropathy
<b>CIPRA</b>	Comprehensive International Program of Research on AIDS
<b>CMS</b>	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
<b>CMV</b>	Cytomegalovirus
<b>CNS</b>	Central Nervous System
<b>CPCRA</b>	Community Programs for Clinical Research on AIDS
<b>CSF</b>	Cerebrospinal Fluid
<b>CTL</b>	Cytotoxic T Lymphocyte
<b>CYP450</b>	Cytochrome P450

**D**

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<b>DAIDS</b>	Division of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
<b>DEXA</b>	Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry
<b>DNA</b>	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
<b>DOT</b>	Directly Observed Therapy
<b>DRESS</b>	Drug Rash with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms
<b>DSMB</b>	Data and Safety Monitoring Board



**E–H**

<b>EBV</b>	Epstein-Barr Virus
<b>EF</b>	Eosinophilic Folliculitis
<b>ELISA</b>	Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay
<b>FDA</b>	Food and Drug Administration
<b>FDCs</b>	Follicular Dendritic Cells
<b>GART</b>	Genotypic Antiretroviral Resistance Test
<b>G-CSF</b>	Granulocyte-Colony Stimulating Factor
<b>GI</b>	Gastrointestinal
<b>GM-CSF</b>	Granulocyte Macrophage-Colony Stimulating Factor
<b>HAART</b>	Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy
<b>HBV</b>	Hepatitis B Virus
<b>HCFA</b>	Health Care Financing Administration
<b>HCV</b>	Hepatitis C Virus
<b>HGH</b>	Human Growth Hormone
<b>HHS</b>	Department of Health and Human Services
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>HPTN</b>	HIV Prevention Trials Network
<b>HPV</b>	Human Papillomavirus
<b>HRSA</b>	Health Resources and Services Administration
<b>HSV-1</b>	Herpes Simplex Virus 1
<b>HSV-2</b>	Herpes Simplex Virus 2
<b>HTLV-I</b>	Human T-Cell Lymphotropic Virus Type I
<b>HVTN</b>	HIV Vaccine Trials Network

## Abbreviations

### I–M

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<b>IFN</b>	Interferon
<b>IG</b>	Immunoglobulin
<b>IHS</b>	Indian Health Service
<b>IL-2</b>	Interleukin-2
<b>IL-7</b>	Interleukin-7
<b>IM</b>	Intramuscular
<b>IND</b>	Investigational New Drug
<b>IRB</b>	Institutional Review Board
<b>IRS</b>	Immune Reconstitution Syndrome
<b>ITP</b>	Idiopathic Thrombocytopenia Purpura
<b>IVIG</b>	Intravenous Immunoglobulin
<b>KS</b>	Kaposi's Sarcoma
<b>KSHV</b>	Kaposi's Sarcoma Herpesvirus
<b>LAS</b>	Lymphadenopathy Syndrome
<b>LGV</b>	Lymphogranuloma Venereum
<b>LIP</b>	Lymphoid Interstitial Pneumonitis
<b>MAC</b>	Mycobacterium Avium Complex
<b>MACS</b>	Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study
<b>MDR-TB</b>	Multiple-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis
<b>MEMS</b>	Medication Event Monitoring System
<b>MHC</b>	Major Histocompatibility Complex
<b>MRI</b>	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
<b>mRNA</b>	Messenger RNA
<b>MTCT</b>	Mother-to-Child Transmission

## N

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<b>NCI</b>	National Cancer Institute
<b>NDA</b>	New Drug Application
<b>NHL</b>	Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
<b>NIAID</b>	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
<b>NIH</b>	National Institutes of Health
<b>NK Cells</b>	Natural Killer Cells
<b>NLM</b>	National Library of Medicine
<b>NNRTIs</b>	Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors
<b>NPIN</b>	National Prevention Information Network
<b>NRTIs</b>	Nucleoside/Nucleotide Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors
<b>NSAIDs</b>	Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs

## O–R

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<b>OAR</b>	Office of AIDS Research
<b>OHL</b>	Oral Hairy Leukoplakia
<b>OIs</b>	Opportunistic Infections
<b>PACTG</b>	Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group
<b>PBMC</b>	Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cell
<b>PCP</b>	Pneumocystis Jiroveci Pneumonia
<b>PCR</b>	Polymerase Chain Reaction
<b>PEP</b>	Post-Exposure Prophylaxis
<b>PGL</b>	Persistent Generalized Lymphadenopathy
<b>PHS</b>	Public Health Service

## Abbreviations

<b>PID</b>	Pelvic Inflammatory Disease
<b>PIs</b>	Protease Inhibitors
<b>PLWA</b>	People Living With AIDS
<b>PML</b>	Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy
<b>PPD</b>	Purified Protein Derivative
<b>RNA</b>	Ribonucleic Acid
<b>RT</b>	Reverse Transcriptase
<b>RT-PCR</b>	Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction

## S

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<b>SAMHSA</b>	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
<b>SAT</b>	Subcutaneous Adipose Tissue
<b>SC</b>	Subcutaneous
<b>SGOT</b>	Serum Glutamic Oxaloacetic Transaminase
<b>SGPT</b>	Serum Glutamic Pyruvic Transaminase
<b>SIT</b>	Structured Intermittent Therapy
<b>SIV</b>	Simian Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>SJS</b>	Stevens-Johnson Syndrome
<b>STD</b>	Sexually Transmitted Disease
<b>STI</b>	Structured Treatment Interruption

## T

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<b>TAMs</b>	Thymidine Analogue Mutations
<b>TAT</b>	Total Adipose Tissue
<b>TB</b>	Tuberculosis
<b>TDM</b>	Therapeutic Drug Monitoring
<b>TEN</b>	Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis
<b>TI</b>	Therapeutic Index

## U–Z

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<b>UDVL</b>	Undetectable Viral Load
<b>VAT</b>	Visceral Adipose Tissue
<b>VL</b>	Viral Load
<b>VZV</b>	Varicella Zoster Virus
<b>WIHS</b>	Women's Interagency HIV Study





## Sponsors

**National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

Office of AIDS Research (OAR)

[\*www.nih.gov/od/oar\*](http://www.nih.gov/od/oar)

**National Institute of Allergy and  
Infectious Diseases (NIAID)**

[\*www3.niaid.nih.gov\*](http://www3.niaid.nih.gov)

**National Library of Medicine (NLM)**

[\*www.nlm.nih.gov\*](http://www.nlm.nih.gov)

**Centers for Medicare &  
Medicaid Services (CMS)**

[\*www.cms.hhs.gov\*](http://www.cms.hhs.gov)

**Health Resources and Services  
Administration (HRSA)**

[\*www.hrsa.gov\*](http://www.hrsa.gov)

**Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)**

[\*www.cdc.gov\*](http://www.cdc.gov)

***AIDSinfo.nih.gov***

Help Line  
800-448-0440

International  
301-519-0459

TTY/TDD  
888-480-3739

Fax  
301-519-6616

Help Line Hours  
Monday-Friday  
Noon-5 p.m. e.s.t.

P.O. Box 6303  
Rockville, MD 20849-6303

ContactUs@aidinfo.nih.gov

